



Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service

WACHS Research Governance

Summaries of Approved Projects
July to December 2019

ED-CO-21-247804 (approved 9/7/2021)

Approved Projects – July to December 2019

Research Governance is a two-stage process involving ethical review by a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council followed by institutional authorisation. A research project is unable to commence until both ethical approval and institutional authorisation have been obtained.

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) maintains its own HREC (EC00261) and also recognises ethical approval by an accredited lead HREC of other WA Health Service Providers and HREC's certified under the National Mutual Acceptance scheme. This report contains a list of research projects that have received WACHS HREC approval and/or WACHS institutional authorisation (at least one site) during the reporting period July to December 2019. [Appendix 1](#) provides additional project details including any WACHS site-specific authorisations prior to the reporting period and/or pending site approvals.

Ethics Review: WACHS HREC Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s)
RGS3076 - Assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of rural and remote telehealth implementation: Part B – WACHS qualitative and quantitative	All regions, Central Office
RGS3139 – The barriers and enablers for implementing a new Triage System for improving processes and outcomes in health care in Chronic Condition Self-Management using the adapted Partners in Health Scale (PIH)	All regions, Central Office
RGS3247 – Transfusion Resources for Rural and Remote Western Australia	All Regions, Central Office
RGS3383 – Interprofessional Simulation Education: Achieving Authenticity Rather Than Increasing Fidelity	South West
RGS3519 – Bunbury Hospital Bed Predictions	South West

Institutional Authorisation: WACHS Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s) with approved site(s)
RGS1170 – Investigating the relationship between identity development and mental health disorders in children and adolescents	Goldfields, Midwest, South West
RGS1232 – The Headache in Emergency Departments Study	South West
RGS1395 - An Alternative Pathway for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) for Indigenous Australians: A cluster randomised trial of implementation models	Great Southern, Wheatbelt
RGS3139 – The barriers and enablers for implementing a new Triage System for improving processes and outcomes in health care in Chronic Condition Self-Management using the adapted Partners in Health Scale (PIH)	Central Office, Kimberley, Wheatbelt
RGS3152 – Os intermetartaseum: subtypes and case reports of fracture	Kimberley, Midwest
RGS3192 – ESCALATION Project: Unifying systems for recognition and response to paediatric clinical deterioration in Western Australia	Great Southern, Kimberley, Wheatbelt
RGS3247 – Transfusion Resources for Rural and Remote Western Australia	All Regions, Central Office
RGS3367 – Prioritising and privileging First Nations voices in the decision making about pandemic influenza vaccine allocation in Australia: listening to community panels	Goldfields
RGS3383 – Interprofessional Simulation Education: Achieving Authenticity Rather Than Increasing Fidelity	South West
RGS3516 – Models of care for airway clearance services in Australia for adults with chronic lung conditions: a descriptive survey	Great Southern
RGS3519 – Bunbury Hospital Bed Predictions	South West
RGS3624 – Barriers to Junior Doctors Seeking Clinical Research Opportunities in WA Hospitals	All Regions, Central Office

Appendix 1 – Project Details

RGS1170 – Investigating the relationship between identity development and mental health disorders in children and adolescents			
Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Janice Wong (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	Adolescence is a critical period that is characterised by rapid development and is also a period that is associated with a number of mental health disorders. Crucially, identity formation and consolidation occurs during this period of time. Research findings have suggested that identity may be related to personality disorders and internalising/externalising problems, however findings are unclear due to limitations of research, including sample sizes. Currently, little is known regarding the development of identity and its relationship with psycho pathology. The project aims to investigate the association between identity, specific psychopathology and Borderline Personality Disorder traits, as assessed by a number of psychometric measures.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	15/1/2019	Ethics Expiry	15/1/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	30/7/2019 - Goldfields (Esperance Community Mental Health Service, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mental Health), Midwest (Geraldton Community Health Service), South West (Bunbury Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Busselton Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)		
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Great Southern (Great Southern Mental Health Service – Albany, Great Southern Mental Health Service – Katanning, Great Southern Mental Health Service – Narrogin), Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Mental Health Service)		

RGS1232 – The Headache in Emergency Departments Study

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Anne–Maree Kelly (Joseph Epstein Centre for Emergency Medicine Research)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Hugh Mitenko		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>Headache is a common reason that people attend an emergency department (ED). There are a wide range of causes, from the painful but not serious to the life-threatening. There are also a number of guidelines advising on tests and treatments for particular clinical diagnosis. In addition, there is international concern regarding the use of codeine and pethidine in the treatment of headache. Small studies have shown significant variation in practice with respect to testing and treatment of patients with headache. This study will, by studying all adult patients with headache who attend participating EDs in a month, investigate the range of diagnoses, clinical features, tests and treatment for this group. It will also investigate whether recommended treatments are used and the use of codeine and pethidine. As it involves patients from around Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and Europe there is also the opportunity to investigate regional differences in investigation and treatment.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Melbourne Health HREC		
Approval Date	24/9/2018	Ethics Expiry	24/9/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	7/8/2019 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS1395 - An Alternative Pathway for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) for Indigenous Australians: A cluster randomised trial of implementation models

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Gail Garvey (Menzies School of Health Research)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Danielle Mactaggart, Ms Pam Ford		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>Indigenous Australians have significantly poorer survival outcomes after a diagnosis of bowel cancer than other Australians. They also have lower participation rates in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP). A number of pilot studies conducted by state/territory cancer screening programs between 2010 and 2014 have shown that an Alternative Pathway via Indigenous Primary Health Care Centres (IPHCCs) may help increase Indigenous participation in the NBCSP. The primary aim of this study is to determine whether there is a difference between the number of clients who are assessed for and participate in NBCSP screening, when screening is offered by IPHCCs that receive either an intensive model of support or a low intensity model of support in preparing to offer an Alternative Pathway for the NBCSP for Indigenous clients.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	17/12/2018	Ethics Expiry	17/12/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	26/9/2019 - Great Southern (Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service), Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service)		

RGS3076 - Assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of rural and remote telehealth implementation: Part B – WACHS qualitative and quantitative

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Christine Tsou (Curtin University and WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Anita John, Ms Kylie Bosich, Dr Justin Yeung, Ms Stephanie Waters		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	This industry driven project aims to provide evidence that will support the future planning and implementation of telehealth services in Western Australia. This project will explore the barriers and enablers of telehealth use to support the delivery of clinical services and improve health service utilisation. Additionally, the project looks to examine whether the use of telehealth services is efficient in creating cost savings to both the health system and society in general in comparison to non-telehealth scenarios. The evidence generated from this research will be used to influence decision makers and assist in informing allocation decisions relating to telehealth delivery and implementation in rural and remote settings.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	14/8/2019	Ethics Expiry	14/8/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: All Regions (all sites), Central Office		

RGS3139 –The barriers and enablers for implementing a new Triage System for improving processes and outcomes in health care in Chronic Condition Self-Management using the adapted Partners in Health Scale (PIH)

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Anthony Venning (Flinders University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Karen Beardsmore		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	The project seeks to identify clinician's perceived barriers and the facilitating factors associated with the introduction of a new system of triage using the adapted. Partners in Health Scale (PIH) developed by Flinders University and WACHS. This project will provide information and insights as to how to improve the management of chronic disease in Australian health care settings. Clinicians will be invited to voluntarily attend a one-on-one 60 minute interview with the researcher who will ask questions to elicit their views regarding their experience in the implementation of the adapted PIH scale.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	3/7/2019	Ethics Expiry	3/7/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	13/12/2019 – Central Office, Kimberley (Derby Community Health Service), Wheatbelt (Avon and Central Primary Health Service, Eastern Primary Health Service, Jurien Bay Health Centre Merredin Health Service, Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service, Southern Wheatbelt Primary Health Service, Wheatbelt Mental Health Service)		
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Goldfields (Kalgoorlie -Boulder Population Health Unit, Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Great Southern (Albany Hospital, Albany Primary Health Service, Katanning Hospital, Katanning Primary Health Service), Kimberley (Broome Community Health Service, Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Kununurra Community Health Service, Kununurra Hospital), Midwest (Carnarvon Community Health Service, Carnarvon Health Campus, Geraldton Community Health Service, Geraldton Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus, Newman Hospital, Tom Price Hospital), South West (Bunbury Hospital Busselton Hospital), Wheatbelt (Pingelly Health Centre, Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service, Wheatbelt Public Health Unit)		

RGS3152 – Os intermetatarsium: subtypes and case reports of fracture

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Timo van Aswegen (Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley, Midwest		
Project Summary	This is a descriptive study of patients with os intermetatarsium identified on medical imaging plus three case reports of fracture of the accessory ossicle. The researchers will use the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) software used within Western Australian hospitals to retrospectively search for patients with os intermetatarsium identified using medical imaging such as radiography and computed tomography. The cases will be identified by searching for the following terms within report findings: inter-metatarsium, intermetatarsium, metatarsium, os intermetatarsium. The search dates will be between 01/01/1990 and 16/09/2015 inclusive.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	14/11/2019	Ethics Expiry	14/11/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	11/12/2019 Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Wyndham Hospital), Midwest (Exmouth Health Service)		

RGS3192 – ESCALATION Project: Unifying systems for recognition and response to paediatric clinical deterioration in Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Fenella Gill (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Scott Stokes, Mrs Claire O'Dea, Mrs Vicki Charters		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern, Kimberley, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>In 2019 state-wide systems are being developed across West Australian (WA) paediatric health care to assist nurses, doctors and involve families to recognise and respond to early signs when a child's health condition is deteriorating. The system includes: observation charts for nurses to record the child's vital signs such a heart rate, breathing rate and blood pressure and prompts or triggers to aid in early detection of deterioration; clear rules so doctors and nurses know when they should contact a more senior doctor or medical team to assist them to see the child and help decide the best treatment and Involvement of the child's family so they can say if they are worried about their child's deteriorating health condition. Nurses, doctors and families will have input to develop the system and it will be trialled in a variety of different types and sizes of healthcare settings in WA. Assessment if the system works for users and if it is appropriate in different settings will also be undertaken.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	29/5/2019	Ethics Expiry	29/5/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	23/9/2019 - Great Southern (Albany Hospital), Kimberley (Broome Health Campus), Wheatbelt (Narrogin Health Service)		

RGS3247 – Transfusion Resources for Rural and Remote Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mr Jason Valles (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>This project aims to understand the unique educational requirements of clinicians involved in the care of patients requiring transfusion in rural and remote settings across Western Australia and provide customised educational and training resources by using an action research design methodology. It is planned to hold a workshop at Australian Red Cross Blood Service. This will explore and understand educational needs of clinicians who prescribe or administer blood products across the seven WA Country Health Service regions. The key findings from the work shop will shape how the project delivers the educational and training material.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	17/7/2019	Ethics Expiry	17/7/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	<p>30/7/2019 – Central Office, Goldfields (Esperance Hospital, Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Great Southern (Albany Hospital, Katanning Hospital), Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Kununurra Hospital), Midwest (Carnarvon Health Campus, Geraldton Hospital, Meekatharra Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus), South West (Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Warren Health Service), Wheatbelt (Merredin Health Service, Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service)</p>		

RGS3367 – Prioritising and privileging First Nations voices in the decision making about pandemic influenza vaccine allocation in Australia: listening to community panels

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Kristy Crooks (Hunter New England Local Health District)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields		
Project Summary	The aim for the First Nations Community Panels is to understand and describe what First Nations communities think is the best way to distribute limited vaccination resources during an influenza pandemic and test the process of hearing from communities for public health emergencies process. We will use this work to inform decision makers of the views and preferences of First Nations peoples to enhance the development of a framework to assist stakeholders to act in ways that make First Nations people's values and realities clear for future public health emergencies.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Hunter New England HREC		
Approval Date	14/6/2019	Ethics Expiry	2/5/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	19/12/2019 – Goldfields (Kalgoorlie -Boulder Population Health Unit)		

RGS3383 – Interprofessional Simulation Education: Achieving Authenticity Rather Than Increasing Fidelity

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Jennifer Martens (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Geoffrey Hunt, Dr Werner Janse van Rensburg		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>Interprofessional simulation education is increasingly popular, yet there is limited research to guide educators as to how to make it as educationally effective as possible. Both the quality of the educational experience and the nature of the meaningful reflection is paramount to overall learning. A common misconception is that increasing the fidelity of the simulation, particularly the manikin, will increase the quality of the educational experience. A literature review found many common themes that were shown to add realism/ authenticity in interprofessional simulation, a few factors that detracted from it and also some conflicting themes. Unfortunately, terminology and the use of authenticity or fidelity were inconsistent. The review has not clarified what are the most important contributors to authenticity, the relationship between authenticity and fidelity and their effects on participants overall learning. The aim of this research is to study what factors contribute to the authenticity (realism) of interprofessional simulation education from the participants' perspective and whether this is important to their learning experience. Healthcare professionals who have previously undertaken interprofessional simulation education will be invited to participate in focus groups. The data collected from focus groups will undergo thematic analysis. The results of the research will support the small body of evidence regarding this subject and hopefully help to further interpret these phenomena.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	10/12/2019	Ethics Expiry	10/12/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	11/12/2019 – South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS3516 – Models of care for airway clearance services in Australia for adults with chronic lung conditions: a descriptive survey

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Laura Cooper (Southern Adelaide Local Health Network)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern, Midwest, Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>This descriptive cross-sectional survey aims to identify and describe clinical models for the provision of airway clearance services for adults with chronic lung conditions currently operating in Australia. Services will be defined in terms of their health care context, referral demographics, service provision and program metrics. The study will aim to recruit participants from Australian public health organisations that have been recently identified as operating an airway clearance service (Scoping review, Uni SA HREC ID: 201308). One physiotherapist at each site identified in the scoping review will be invited to participate in the survey via email with survey link embedded. It is anticipated approximately 180 participants from across Australia will complete the survey. Descriptive analysis will be used to report the findings of all survey questions and will be summarised in relation to each component of the study objectives: health care context, referral demographics, service provision and program metrics.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Southern Adelaide Clinical HREC		
Approval Date	7/3/2019	Ethics Expiry	7/3/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	27/11/2019 - Great Southern (Albany Hospital, Katanning Hospital)		
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Midwest (Geraldton Hospital, Morawa District Hospital and Health Service), Pilbara (Paraburdoo Hospital, Tom Price Hospital)		

RGS3519 – Bunbury Hospital Bed Predictions

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Justin Boyle (Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Glen Matters, Mr Raj Subham		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This project involves development and validation of a bed demand prediction model for WA Country Health Service based on deidentified extracts of data provided by Bunbury Hospital. The forecasts will cover admissions by day, specialty subgroups and elective and emergency patients. The deliverables for this work will be a validated model, a guidance document to assist future implementation of the model by others, and a report on the predictive accuracy of forecasts when measured against historic data.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	21/11/2019	Ethics Expiry	21/11/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	29/11/2019 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS3624 –Barriers to Junior Doctors Seeking Clinical Research Opportunities in WA Hospitals

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Samuel Leedman (Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Marwan Idrees		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>The study aims to identify the barriers faced (time constraints, difficulty finding a research supervisor) by junior doctors (Interns, RMO's, Registrars, Fellows) in hospitals and health services around Western Australia, to undertaking meaningful clinical research. This will be undertaken through distribution of an anonymous online survey to junior doctors around the state via email.</p> <p>It is believed that barriers do exist, the survey data aims to implement change and improve access to clinical research opportunities for junior doctors in this state. A preliminary survey conducted of a single institution in late 2018 showed significant issues for junior doctors' access to and participation in clinical research. This survey found that 97% of respondents agreed that barriers do exist in their institution, the most significant being lack of time and poor teaching/understanding of research methods. This survey aims to identify and understand the barriers faced by junior doctors around Western Australia to undertaking clinical research as an adjunct of their everyday practice. This information will be used to address these issues and implement change to bring about improved opportunities for junior doctors in the future.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	11/10/2019	Ethics Expiry	11/10/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	06/11/2019 - All Regions (All Regional defaults), Central Office		