

Approved Projects - July to December 2020

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 2020. [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)
RGS3384 – Pregnancy outcomes for women with pre-existing Diabetes Mellitus in the Geraldton Regional Hospital: a retrospective 10 year review	Kimberley, Midwest
RGS3523 – Cardihab Digital Cardiac Rehabilitation Trial	South West
RGS3954 – Augmented reality as a tool to improve cultural security for Aboriginal patients of the Northam Health Service	Wheatbelt
RGS4004 – Experiences of emergency department nurses caring for individuals at risk of suicide in the Wheatbelt: A qualitative descriptive study	Wheatbelt
RGS4060 – General Practitioners' experiences and expectations in Country Health Western Australia – Improving policy and planning	All Regions, Central Office
RGS4106 – Barriers and Enablers to Healthy Options WA Policy Compliance in WA Country Health Services and Facilities: A Qualitative Study	Central Office, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4134 - Milk Man: A non-experimental trial using digital technology to engage rural and remote fathers to improve maternal breastfeeding outcomes	All Regions, Central Office
RGS4177 – Women's Experiences of Maternity Services Survey	All Regions
RGS4229 – Typed operation notes, improving patient care throughout the Kimberley	Kimberley
RGS4375 – Hedland Health Campus Team Huddle Survey: assessing the impact of a daily huddle on perceptions of teamwork, leadership and staff morale	Pilbara
RGS4418 – Characterising clinical activity in regional WA hospitals over time, with respect to directing participants in health department training programmes to the hospitals with the most suitable clinical loads	All Regions, Central Office

Institutional Authorisation: WACHS Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s) with approved site(s)
RGS206 - Improving mental health screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women and mothers of young children	Pilbara
RGS0848 – Australia and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit Quality Improvement	Great Southern, South West
RGS1396 – Improving Aboriginal health and well-being: young people and type 2 diabetes	Goldfields, Midwest, Pilbara
RGS2649 – Kalyakool Moort – always family – developing a safe effective approach to screening for perinatal depression and anxiety among Aboriginal families	Wheatbelt
RGS2993 - Making Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) History in the Pilbara: An evidence-based prevention intervention	Pilbara

RGS3024 – A validation study to predict poor outcomes following mild traumatic brain injury	Great Southern, Midwest
RGS3076 – Assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of rural and remote telehealth implementation: Part B - WACHS qualitative and quantitative	All regions
RGS3307 – Substance Use Disorder Aeromedical Retrievals in Western Australia	Great Southern
RGS3384 – Pregnancy outcomes for women with pre-existing Diabetes Mellitus in the Geraldton Regional Hospital: a retrospective 10 year review	Midwest
RGS3523 – Cardihab Digital Cardiac Rehabilitation Trial	South West
RGS3673 – Emerging Drugs Network of Australia	South West
RGS3954 – Augmented reality as a tool to improve cultural security for Aboriginal patients of the Northam Health Service	Wheatbelt
RGS4060 – General Practitioners’ experiences and expectations in Country Health Western Australia – Improving policy and planning	Central Office, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4106 – Barriers and Enablers to Healthy Options WA Policy Compliance in WA Country Health Services and Facilities: A Qualitative Study	Central Office, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4229 – Typed operation notes, improving patient care throughout the Kimberley	Kimberley
RGS4278 – Pilot study for the Early Years Initiative (EYI) Evaluation – pilot to field test administration of a parent/caregiver survey in the Central Great Southern community	Great Southern
RGS4305 – Developing, testing, implementation and evaluation of a graduate mentoring program to optimize the likelihood of midwife retention in Western Australia	South West
RGS4375 – Hedland Health Campus Team Huddle Survey: assessing the impact of a daily huddle on perceptions of teamwork, leadership and staff morale	Pilbara

Appendix 1 – Project Details

RGS206 - Improving mental health screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women and mothers of young children			
Coordinating Principal Investigator	Julia Marley (The University of Western Australia)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Sarah McEwan, Dr Kylee Cox, Mrs Janet de San Miguel, Dr David Cutts, Ms Melissa Williams, Dr Catherine Engelke, Dr Stephanie Trust		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley, Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>The locally developed, validated, culturally appropriate and user friendly Kimberley Mum's Mood Scale (KMMS) was developed to assess risk of anxiety and depression, improve screening rates and help provide better care for the social and emotional health of pregnant Aboriginal women and Aboriginal mothers of infants. The KMMS has been piloted on 91 women in the Kimberley. It was found to be an effective screening instrument for anxiety and depression in Aboriginal perinatal women, improved relationships between health carer providers and their patients, and was a useful tool for developing brief interventions and management plans to improve well-being in this group. The KMMS is now accepted for use in the Kimberley and included in regional guidelines, however it has not been fully evaluated in real world settings and has not been trailed in other remote settings. This proposal aims to: fully validate the KMMS as a screening tool; describe its effectiveness in supporting primary care brief interventions; and to develop and validate local versions of this tool in other remote areas, including the Pilbara in WA and Far North Queensland.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	10/8/2017	Ethics Expiry	31/12/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	28/8/2020 - Pilbara (Marble Bar Health Centre, Pilbara Population Health, Nullagine Health Clinic) 11/6/2019 - Pilbara (Karratha Health Campus, Hedland Health Campus) 26/10/2017 - Kimberley (Broome Community Health Service, Derby Community Health Service, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Community Health Service, Halls Creek Community Health Service, Halls Creek Hospital, Kimberley Remote Area Health - East; Warmun and Kalumburu Remote Clinics, Kimberley Remote Area Health - West; Djarindjin/Lombadina, Ardyaloon and Looma Remote Clinics, Kununurra Community Health Service Kununurra Hospital, Wyndham Community Health Service)		

RGS0848 – Australia and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit Quality Improvement

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Edmond O'Loughlin (Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Jacinta Cover, Dr Nyi Zaw		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern, Kimberley, South West		
Project Summary	The Australia and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit Quality Improvement (ANZELA-QI) project is an initiative to provide real-time data on the management of emergency laparotomies in these two countries, to empower clinicians and hospitals to improve the quality of care provided to the vulnerable and sizable cohort of patients that undergo these procedures each year. It is anticipated that the audit will inform improvements to the quality of patient care, and introduce cost savings from reducing unnecessary clinical interventions and bed stay.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	16/3/2018	Ethics Expiry	16/3/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	17/9/2020 - Great Southern (Albany Hospital), South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS1396 – Improving Aboriginal health and well-being: young people and type 2 diabetes

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Lisa Whitehead (Edith Cowan University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Jodie Morton, Ms Claire Easter, Mrs Ange Monaghan		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields, Midwest, Pilbara		
Project Summary	This project aims to explore the health beliefs and behaviours of young Aboriginal people and their families living with type 2 diabetes mellitus across Western Australia. The researchers seek to recruit a sample of twenty Aboriginal people under the age of 18 whom have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. An additional sample of forty family members of these Aboriginal young people will be invited to attend a family group interview exploring the patient's diagnosis, relevant family history and the impact of a diabetes diagnosis within the family environment. The key findings from this analysis will be used to inform changes to practice and policy and generate culturally sensitive patient resources for dissemination.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	11/4/2019	Ethics Expiry	11/4/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	28/7/2020 - Goldfields (Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Midwest (Geraldton Hospital), Pilbara (Karratha Health Campus)		

RGS2649 – Kalyakool Moort – always family – developing a safe effective approach to screening for perinatal depression and anxiety among Aboriginal families

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Rhonda Marriott (Murdoch University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Tarryn Sharp		
WACHS Region(s)	Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	This research project aims to develop a culturally relevant screening approach and tool that supports effective screening for perinatal depression and/or anxiety among Aboriginal women. This will provide a secure alternative to the Edinburgh Post Natal Depression Scale for use with Aboriginal mothers and pose potential for widespread use with fathers and grandmothers. This research project will include an analysis of screening rates and patterns; an in-depth exploration and analysis of barriers, enablers and concepts affecting perinatal mental health screening; and the strengths and weaknesses of current alternatives to the EPDS, in particular the Kimberley Mums Mood Scale.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Women and Newborn Health Service Ethics Committee		
Approval Date	1/7/2014	Ethics Expiry	1/7/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	25/8/2020 - Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service)		

RGS2993 - Making Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) History in the Pilbara: An evidence-based prevention intervention

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor James Fitzpatrick (Telethon Kids Institute)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, and a range of lifelong physical, behavioural, and intellectual disabilities. These disabilities are known as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Rates of FASD in remote WA Aboriginal communities are among the highest in the world. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the impacts of FASD are now widespread in the Pilbara. The aim of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of an evidence-based FASD prevention intervention to reduce the rates of alcohol use in pregnancy among Aboriginal women in three communities in the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	31/1/2017	Ethics Expiry	31/1/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	14/8/2020 - Pilbara (Karratha Health Campus, Hedland Health Campus)		

RGS3024 – A validation study to predict poor outcomes following mild traumatic brain injury

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Melinda Fitzgerald (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Russell Young, Dr Monica Marton		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern, Midwest		
Project Summary	<p>This observational study of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) seeks to identify characteristics and clinical outcome measures to predict those patients at increased risk of delayed recovery. The study aims to identify symptoms, pre-injury factors, neuropsychological factors, biochemical and/or imaging outcomes that may predict persisting post-concussion symptoms up to 12 months later. Developing a method of identifying adults at increased risk of poorer prognosis (PPCS) following mTBI will allow these patients to be directed into targeted clinical care or future clinical trials of potential therapies as early as possible, thereby minimising distress and disability to the individual. Improving the overall management of individuals with PPCS will reduce the public health burden and health care costs for this debilitating condition.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Royal Perth Hospital HREC		
Approval Date	5/4/2019	Ethics Expiry	5/4/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	9/12/2020 - Great Southern (Albany Hospital), Midwest (Geraldton Hospital)		

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

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Christina 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			
Approved	3/7/2020 – All Regions (all sites) 31/1/2020 - Central Office		

RGS3307 – Substance Use Disorder Aeromedical Retrievals in Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Mathew Coleman (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Nicholas Faint		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	The purpose of this study is to characterise patients 18 years and older that are evacuated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service for Substance Use Disorders in Western Australia; and to compare their presentation, clinical outcomes and care requirements against a metropolitan-based case-controlled group. These outcomes include the primary diagnosis, comorbidity diagnosis, length of stay, procedures required and mental health status during the episode of care. There is currently no published literature that analyses Substance Use Disorder patient outcomes once they have been transferred from the evacuation site to the destination hospital. It is therefore unknown as to whether patients that are evacuated from rural and remote regions are subjected to longer hospital stays and have poorer clinical outcomes. This study intends to investigate this space.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Department of Health WA HREC		
Approval Date	9/4/2020	Ethics Expiry	9/4/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	21/9/2020 – Great Southern (Great Southern Mental Health Service – Albany)		

RGS3384 – Pregnancy outcomes for women with pre-existing Diabetes Mellitus in the Geraldton Regional Hospital: a retrospective 10 year review

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Sarah Armitage (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Jared Watts		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley, Midwest		
Project Summary	This is a retrospective 10 year audit of obstetric outcomes for women with pre-existing Diabetes Mellitus at Geraldton Regional Hospital. The data will be collected from the STORK data base and case file reviews of individual patients. The outcomes explored will include both maternal and neonatal outcomes. This project aims to measure whether a change in practice 10 years ago in allowing women with pre-existing diabetes mellitus to deliver in Geraldton, when they were previously required to relocate and deliver at KEMH in Perth. This audit will review the effect of this change in practice and hopefully show equivalent outcomes to those published for metropolitan centres.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	24/9/2020	Ethics Expiry	24/9/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	26/10/2020 - Midwest (Geraldton Hospital)		
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Kimberley (Broome Health Campus)		

RGS3523 – Cardihab Digital Cardiac Rehabilitation Trial

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Jodi Larke (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Mrs Julie Smith, Mrs Alison Smith, Mr Shaun Guy, Mrs Chantelle Thomas, Mrs Chantelle Thomas, Ms Nina Angeloni, Miss Joanne Moore		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This project is a collaboration between WA Primary Health Alliance and the WA Country Health Services to pilot a digital cardiac rehabilitation platform for a period of 12 months. The project will evaluate the user experience and whether access to the app improves engagement with Cardiac Rehabilitation services in the South West region. The introduction of this app may prove to be particularly beneficial for patients that live in rural and remote settings as it improves their ability to access cardiac rehabilitation remotely.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	8/7/2020	Ethics Expiry	8/7/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	28/7/2020 - South West (Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Warren Health Service, Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS3673 – Emerging Drugs Network of Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Hui-Min Jessamine Soderstrom (Royal Perth Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Hugh Mitenko, Mrs Marie Draper		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This project aims to create a national clinical registry of illicit drugs resulting in emergency presentations (EDNA Clinical Registry) that has the capacity to act as an early warning system. This will contribute to improving the quality and safety of clinical care and patient outcomes by identifying particular substances causing harm and linking them to the most effective treatment methods. The EDNA Registry will collect de-identified information on all eligible illicit drug-related presentations at participating hospital sites across Australia. Information will be transferred from independent state registries and housed on a secure server for national analysis and reporting.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	11/12/2019	Ethics Expiry	11/12/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	26/11/2020 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS3954 – Augmented reality as a tool to improve cultural security for Aboriginal patients of the Northam Health Service

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Danika Tager (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Miss Alyssa Thompson		
WACHS Region(s)	Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>The project will be trialing the use of Augmented Reality (AR) to deliver video and other culturally appropriate forms of communication to Aboriginal people at key points on their patient journey in the Northam Health Service. This project proposes to use a series of clearly identifiable symbols, or triggers, placed around the hospital setting to cue culturally appropriate content relevant to key stages of the patient journey. Each symbol will link to a unique piece of audio-visual content containing important patient information. For example a patient might point their phone at a 'kaya' symbol at reception and bring up a welcome to country video on their phone, then access an interactive hospital map via another symbol and receive a video of an Aboriginal staff member explaining critical discharge information via a symbol printed on their discharge paperwork. Workshops will be promoted through existing communication channels such as newsletters and all staff emails, as well as targeted invitations for key informants. All users of the final Augmented Reality technology will be asked to complete a voluntary consumer satisfaction survey via a link embedded in the program.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	18/11/2020	Ethics Expiry	18/11/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	20/11/2020 - Wheatbelt (Northam Health Service)		

RGS4004 – Experiences of emergency department nurses caring for individuals at risk of suicide in the Wheatbelt: A qualitative descriptive study

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mr Tendai Makanyanga (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	The aim of the study is to gain an understanding of nurses' experience of working with individuals at risk of suicide who present to ED in two regional Wheatbelt towns. ED nurses are well placed to support individuals at risk in the Wheatbelt, for individual at risk who present to the ED. Risk assessment and management is important in ensuring that at risk individuals are provided with the necessary services. The findings generated by this project will be used to inform service managers, policy makers and executives to influence the policies and practices of ED nurses in the future.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	20/8/2020	Ethics Expiry	20/8/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Wheatbelt (Merredin Health Service, Narrogin Health Service)		

RGS4060 – General Practitioners’ experiences and expectations in Country Health Western Australia – Improving policy and planning

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Melanie Roberts (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Central Office, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>This study will identify from the perspective of the GP workforce, specific issues and opportunities for improvement in relation to the safe delivery of emergency services within the small WACHS hospitals. This project will support the objective of better engagement with the GPs through the CHI Program and support future policy and planning. The project is a cross sectional study that utilises a mixed methods sequential explanatory design, it will comprise three stages of data collection and each stage will inform the next stage. The first stage will establish baseline information from the GP workforce who service the small and district WACHS hospitals on their experiences, expectations, issues or concerns in the delivery of emergency care. For the second stage, the same participants from each of the five regions will be surveyed again for a more detailed investigation based on the results of the first stage. The third stage involves interviewing WACHS policy makers, and Regional Medical Directors from each region based on the results of the first two stages.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	5/11/2020	Ethics Expiry	5/11/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	<p>10/11/2020 - Central Office, Goldfields (Esperance Hospital, Goldfields Regional Default, Laverton Hospital, Leonora Hospital, Norseman District Hospital), Great Southern (Denmark Hospital and Health Service, Gnowangerup Hospital, Great Southern Regional Default, Katanning Hospital, Kojonup Hospital, Plantagenet Hospital, Ravensthorpe District Health Centre), Midwest (Dongara Eneabba Mingenew Health Service, Exmouth Health Service, Kalbarri Health Centre, Meekatharra Hospital, Midwest Regional Default, Morawa District Hospital and Health Service, Mullewa Hospital, North Midlands Public Hospital, Northampton Hospital), South West (Augusta District Hospital, Boyup Brook Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Bridgetown District Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Donnybrook Hospital, Harvey Hospital, Margaret River Hospital, Nannup Hospital, Pemberton Hospital, South West Regional Default, Warren Health Service), Wheatbelt (Beverley Health Service, Boddington Health Service, Bruce Rock Memorial Health Service, Corrigin Health Service, Dalwallinu Health Service, Dumbelyung Memorial Health Service, Goomalling Health Service, Kellerberrin Memorial Health Service, Kondinin Health Service, Kununoppin Health Service, Lake Grace Health Service, Merredin Health Service, Moora Health Service, Narembeen Memorial Health Service, Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service, Quairading Health Service, Southern Cross Health Service, Wagin Health Service, Wheatbelt Regional Default, Wongan Health Service, Wyalkatchem-Koorda Health Service, York Health Service)</p>		

RGS4106 – Barriers and Enablers to Healthy Options WA Policy Compliance in WA Country Health Services and Facilities: A Qualitative Study

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Anastasia Blackwell (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Sharon McBride, Ms Gail Cummins		
WACHS Region(s)	Central Office, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>The mandatory <i>Healthy Options WA</i> policy was implemented in 2008 with the aim of improving the health of staff, patients and the broader community. Despite implementation for over 10 years, a 2018 audit of the policy by the Western Australian School Canteen Association found that no single health facility food outlet audited under the jurisdiction of the WACHS was fully compliant with the policy. Often in healthcare, there are a number of barriers and enablers that can impact policy compliance. The primary objective of this study aims to identify the key barriers and enablers to Healthy Options WA policy compliance within WA Country Health Service Facilities. The second objective is to identify opportunities for WA Health Services and Facilities to increase their compliance with the policy. Objective three is to provide recommendations to the WA Country Health Service on areas in requirement of support in improving policy compliance.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	28/7/2020	Ethics Expiry	17/7/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	1/9/2020 - Central Office, Goldfields (Esperance Hospital, Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Great Southern (Albany Hospital, Katanning Hospital, Plantagenet Hospital), Midwest (Geraldton Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus), South West (Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Harvey Hospital), Wheatbelt (Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service)		

RGS4134 - Milk Man: A non-experimental trial using digital technology to engage rural and remote fathers to improve maternal breastfeeding outcomes

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Jane Scott (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Kylee Cox		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	Breastfeeding is an important health issue in the perinatal period, and fathers are important breastfeeding supports for their partner. New and innovative methods are needed to reach and support fathers, particularly those living in rural and remote areas. In previous research, the Milk Man app, a breastfeeding app co-designed for fathers, demonstrated encouraging results, but further work needs to be done to understand the potential for mobile technology in a broader Western Australian context. This research project aims to investigate the impact a father-focused mobile app has on breastfeeding for country WA families and the potential for integration into practice. Expecting fathers living in country WA will be recruited to use the app antenatally and will have access to the app until their baby is 6 months of age. Breastfeeding outcomes will be assessed and compared against an historical cohort drawn from the National Infant Feeding Survey.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	21/10/2020	Ethics Expiry	21/10/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Central Office, Goldfields (Goldfields Regional Default), Great Southern (Albany Primary Health Service, Great Southern Regional Default), Kimberley (Broome Community Health Service, Broome Health Campus, Kimberley Regional Default), Midwest (Midwest Regional Default), Pilbara (Pilbara Regional Default), South West (Bunbury Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, South West Regional Default), Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Regional Default)		

RGS4177 – Women’s Experiences of Maternity Services Survey

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mrs Tarryn Sharp (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Mrs Kate Reynolds, Mrs Marie Norris		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions		
Project Summary	This study aims to implement a survey to monitor and evaluate women’s satisfaction with Western Australia’s maternity services. This tool is a pre-existing survey developed by the Telethon Kids Institute. All women that deliver a baby using WA Maternity services will be invited to participate in the survey. All information collected will be used to measure the quality of care experiences from a woman’s perspective which will inform future Quality Improvement activities at site, regional and WACHS wide levels.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	1/10/2020	Ethics Expiry	1/10/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Goldfields (Esperance Hospital, Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Great Southern (Albany Hospital), Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Kununurra Hospital), Midwest (Carnarvon Health Campus, Geraldton Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus), South West (Bridgetown District Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Margaret River Hospital, Warren Health Service), Wheatbelt (Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service)		

RGS4229 – Typed operation notes, improving patient care throughout the Kimberley

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Amelia Davis (Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dean McKittrick		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	This project evaluates the impact of typed surgical operation notes throughout the Kimberley region with regards to accessibility of clinical information, safety and improved patient care from 2019-2020.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	2/11/2020	Ethics Expiry	2/11/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	5/11/2020 - Kimberley (Kununurra Hospital, Derby Hospital, Broome Health Campus)		

RGS4278 – Pilot study for the Early Years Initiative (EYI) Evaluation – pilot to field test administration of a parent/caregiver survey in the Central Great Southern community

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Rosemary Cahill (Telethon Kids Institute)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Hannah Patterson, Mrs Amber Crichton, Mrs Susan Thompson, Mrs Diane House, Mrs Donna Woithe, Ms Jane Hung		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	This project is a six week pilot study to field-test the administration, use and analysis of an anonymous parent/caregiver survey administered to target families in one of the Early Years Initiatives partner communities: the Central Great Southern (CGS) region of Western Australia. Based on lessons learned from the pilot study, the survey and its administration will be refined for use within the Early Years Study, with an expected collection duration of six months at (approximate) three-year intervals.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	23/10/2020	Ethics Expiry	23/10/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	5/11/2020 - Great Southern (Gnowangerup Community Health Centre, Katanning Child Health Service, Tambellup Nursing Post, Kojonup Child Health Service)		

RGS4305 – Developing, testing, implementation and evaluation of a graduate mentoring program to optimize the likelihood of midwife retention in Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Dianne Bloxsome (Edith Cowan University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Katrina Jones		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This study provides an opportunity to work collaboratively with Western Australian midwifery change-leaders towards the co-development of a new graduate midwife mentoring program. It is anticipated that the collaborative partnership will enhance the impact of this study. This study uses Participatory Action Research to create a blueprint for the steps needed to successfully implement a mentoring program. The development of this program will benefit graduate midwives and organisations, which will benefit from employee retention.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Women and Newborn Health Service Ethics Committee		
Approval Date	3/11/2020	Ethics Expiry	3/11/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	17/11/2020 – South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS4375 – Hedland Health Campus Team Huddle Survey: assessing the impact of a daily huddle on perceptions of teamwork, leadership and staff morale

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr John van Bockxmeer (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Project Summary	This project aims to evaluate a new daily staff huddle process where care teams get together to discuss workflows, patients and operations. Researchers will evaluate teamwork behaviours, perceptions and attitudes before and after the implementation of a new daily huddle which has been formulated by staff as a tool to improve multidisciplinary communication. Evidence-based teamwork survey questions will be administered to staff before and after changes and results analysed to ascertain if the new huddle process created positive change.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	6/11/2020	Ethics Expiry	6/11/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	25/11/2020 - Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus)		

RGS4418 – Characterising clinical activity in regional WA hospitals over time, with respect to directing participants in health department training programmes to the hospitals with the most suitable clinical loads

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Denese Playford (The University of Western Australia)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr David Oldham		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	This project aims to characterise clinical activity in regional WA hospitals over time, with respect to directing participants in health department training programmes to the hospitals with the most suitable clinical loads.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	3/12/2020	Ethics Expiry	3/12/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Central Office, Great Southern (Albany Hospital), Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Kununurra Hospital), South West (Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital), Midwest (Geraldton Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus), Goldfields (Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Wheatbelt (Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service)		