



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

WACHS Research Governance

Summaries of Approved Projects
January to June 2021

ED-CO-21-247779 (approved 9/7/2021)

Approved Projects – January to June 2021

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 January to June 2021. [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)
2021.01 - Post operative analgesia in paediatric adeno/tonsillectomy patients	South West
2021.03 - Management of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm	South West
2021.04 - Partial Nephrectomy Fat patch outcomes	South West
2021.05 - Goals of Patient Care documentation at Bunbury Hospital: a retrospective medical record audit	South West
2021.07 - Infection rates post caesarean section at Broome Health Campus	Kimberley
2021.08 - Management of pregnant patients with increased body mass index at Broome Health Campus	Kimberley
RGS4285 - WA Country Health Service Myringoplasty Audit	Kimberley
RGS4287 - The delivery of aged care services and telehealth during COVID-19 in the Kimberley region of Western Australia	Kimberley
RGS4322 - Review of Otolaryngology outreach clinics in the COVID era: lessons learnt and future directions	Kimberley
RGS4426 - Rapid Expansion of Telehealth in the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic	Central Office
RGS4453 - WACHS Childhood Immunisation Coverage Rates: Stakeholder Workshop	All regions, Central Office
RGS4489 - Bringing cancer treatment closer to home for regional patients: assessing patient reported impacts and benefits of delivering outreach chemotherapy, via videoconference (TeleChemotherapy) in the Kimberley region.	Kimberley
RGS4510 - Acute Hand Injury Margaret River Emergency Department: Prevalence, mechanism of injury and care pathway	South West
RGS4531 - Postpartum Haemorrhage in Rural WA: an audit	Goldfields, Great Southern, South West
RGS4597 - Evaluating TelePalliative Care in the Home in rural WA: the perspectives of palliative care team members on its usefulness and ease of use	All regions, Central Office
RGS4650 - Practice Readiness in very remote hospitals: perceptions of early career and later career registered nurses	Kimberley
RGS4662 - Antibiotic prescribing for the management of skin and soft tissue infections - A retrospective drug use evaluation	Goldfields

Institutional Authorisation: WACHS Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s) with approved site(s)
RGS0954 - Cognitive Improvement by Early Restoration of Circadian Rhythms in Very Preterm Infants through Environmental Modification: The CIRCA DIEM Study	South West
RGS1690 - Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry	Midwest, South West

RGS4004 - Experiences of emergency department nurses caring for individuals at risk of suicide in the Wheatbelt: A qualitative descriptive study	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
RGS4273 - Reducing the overuse of proven ineffective interventions in infants with bronchiolitis: Developing an evidence-based Bronchiolitis implementation support package for national roll-out	South West
RGS4453 - WACHS Childhood Immunisation Coverage Rates: Stakeholder Workshop	All regions, Central Office
RGS4531 - Postpartum Haemorrhage in Rural WA: an audit	Goldfields, Great Southern, South West
RGS4585 - Oxford Cognitive Screen- Australian Version (OCS-AU). Determining Australian cut points.	South West
RGS4597 - Evaluating TelePalliative Care in the Home in rural WA: the perspectives of palliative care team members on its usefulness and ease of use	All regions, Central Office
RGS4647 - Research Capacity and Culture (RCC) Survey for Mental Health Workers in Western Australia (WA)	All regions, Central Office
RGS4650 - Practice Readiness in very remote hospitals: perceptions of early career and later career registered nurses	Kimberley

Appendix 1 – Project Details

2021.01 - Post operative analgesia in paediatric adeno/tonsillectomy patients

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Nyomi Hall (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This audit will investigate which patients are prescribed opioids on discharge compared to simple analgesia (Paracetamol, Ibuprofen), and whether they require the full dose prescribed to control their pain. There is no current guideline for analgesia post adeno/tonsillectomy in paediatric patients. Patients are discharged on opioids or simple analgesia (Paracetamol, Ibuprofen), at the discretion of the anaesthetist. This audit aims to create a guideline for post-operative analgesia discharge prescriptions in paediatric adeno/tonsillectomy patients, and potentially minimise the use of opioids in this patient group.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	10/2/2021	Ethics Expiry	10/2/2022
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.03 - Management of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr. Vigneshkumar Palanisamy (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Jacinta Cover		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a swelling (aneurysm) of the aorta – the main blood vessel that leads away from the heart, down through the abdomen to the rest of the body. Given high morbidity and high mortality of AAA, this audit aims to evaluate the outcome of patients with AAA in the last 10 years who presented to Bunbury Regional Hospital. This information will be used to evaluate whether the management of ruptured AAA in Bunbury Regional Hospital is equivalent to the gold standard recommended guidelines.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	27/3/2021	Ethics Expiry	27/3/2022
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.04 - Partial Nephrectomy Fat patch outcomes

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr. Brennan Timm (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Mr Michael Pether		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This is a retrospective review of a novel technique used by a local surgeon to prevent post-operative complications in patients undergoing a partial nephrectomy. The audit will review post-operative complication rates and compare these results to other national databases utilising an alternative method of urine control at partial nephrectomy.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	25/3/2021	Ethics Expiry	25/3/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.05 - Goals of Patient Care documentation at Bunbury Hospital: a retrospective medical record audit

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Bronwyn Peirce (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Esther Watts, Ms Reneta Reji		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	Goals of Patient Care (GOPC) discussion and documentation aims to assist patients in making realistic decisions appropriate for them should their medical condition acutely deteriorate with the patient unable to speak for themselves. WACHS (including Bunbury Hospital) implemented a guideline relating to GOPC in May 2020 with documentation maintained in the electronic medical record (EMR).The extent of adherence to this guideline at Bunbury Regional Hospital is currently unknown. This audit aims to gauge the up-take of GOPC documentation for patients admitted to Bunbury Hospital. Secondary aims are to examine the potential reasons behind lack of completion via subgroup analysis.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	3/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	3/5/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.07 - Infection rates post caesarean section at Broome Health Campus

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Jasmin Sekhon		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Jared Watts		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Lay Summary	An audit conducted in 2019 found a rate of post caesarean infection (surgical site and urinary) of 41.7% at the Broome Health Campus. This is notably higher than expected rates. The study aims to review rates of post caesarean infection following education regarding the WHNS and TGA guidelines for the use of antibiotic prophylaxis with caesarean section.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	25/6/2021	Ethics Expiry	25/6/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Broome Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.08 - Management of pregnant patients with increased body mass index at Broome Health Campus

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Alex Booth		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Lay Summary	This retrospective clinical audit aims to determine current practice with respect to the management of pregnant patients with increased body mass index (BMI) at Broome Health Campus. There is currently no available data on clinical outcomes for pregnant patients with increased BMI. This audit stems from the recent introduction of a new clinical guideline at Broome Health Campus – ‘For the safe management of pregnant patients with increased body mass index’ (2021).		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	28/6/2021	Ethics Expiry	28/6/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Broome Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

RGS0954 - Cognitive Improvement by Early Restoration of Circadian Rhythms in Very Preterm Infants through Environmental Modification: The CIRCA DIEM Study

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Jane Pillow (Telethon Kids Institute)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Andrea Drew (WACHS)		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>Cognitive impairment after premature birth is the foremost concern for parents and clinicians caring for preterm infants, and has a major, life-long socioeconomic impact on the community. We hypothesise that environmental circadian care commenced on admission to NICU and continued until discharge home will effect a 4 point increase in the cognitive sub-score on Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development III (Bayley-III) at 2 y corrected postnatal age (cPNA) in infants born at < 32 w gestation. The CIRCA DIEM Trial is a multicentre, two-arm parallel, prospective, randomised, open blinded end-point controlled trial. It aims to assess the effect of diurnal cycling of environmental light and noise on neurodevelopment, anthropometry, circadian biology, behaviour, and health service utilisation in very preterm infants, and mental health of their primary caregiver. Intervention involves environmental light and noise cycling from the first 72 h of life until discharge home via overnight application of eye masks and ear muffs with silicon ear plugs (8 pm-6am), and daytime removal of cot-covers (6 am-8pm). The proposed simple intervention is practical, inexpensive, acceptable, and globally applicable. Improved cognitive and neurodevelopmental outcomes from this simple intervention would change neonatal care, enhance quality of life and reduce the cost of preterm birth, on a global scale.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	18/10/2018	Ethics Expiry	18/10/2021
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	20/5/2021 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS1690 - Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Jacqueline Close (Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Lorcan McGonagle, Dr Allen Chong, Ms Joanne Moore		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest, South West		
Project Summary	<p>Hip fracture is the most serious and costly fall-related injury suffered by older people. The personal cost, and the cost to the health care system, of these injuries is significant and as baby boomers retire, healthcare providers throughout the world must prepare to develop systematic approaches to the prevention and care of these injuries. One strategy that has been utilised with good effect in the United Kingdom is the National Hip Fracture Database. This audit system has demonstrated year on year improvements in the key markers of care quality for people experiencing a fractured hip. The success of the British experience in improving outcomes for people with a hip fracture led to the establishment of the Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry (ANZHRF). The ultimate goal of the ANZHRF is to use data to improve performance and maximise outcomes for older people by reducing mortality, maximising functional independence, and reducing rates of institutionalisation. This goal will be achieved by: evaluating hospital performance against the Australian and New Zealand National Guidelines and Quality Standards for Hip Fracture Care; identifying variation in outcomes between individual hospitals and across the health care systems and using data to drive system level improvement; preventing future fractures for people sustaining a hip fracture by monitoring secondary prevention interventions; standardising care across Australia and New Zealand by addressing barriers to the use of the best available evidence; contributing to the knowledge base of high quality and safe care for people suffering a hip fracture by providing opportunity to address research questions as they arise.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group HREC		
Approval Date	16/9/2014	Ethics Expiry	16/9/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	4/6/2021 – Midwest (Geraldton Hospital), South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

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			
Approved	5/2/2021 - Wheatbelt (Merredin Health Service, Narrogin 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			
Approved	21/6/2021: Central Office, Goldfields (Goldfields Regional Default), Great Southern (Albany Hospital, 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 (South West Regional Default), Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Regional Default)		

RGS4273 - Reducing the overuse of proven ineffective interventions in infants with bronchiolitis: Developing an evidence-based Bronchiolitis implementation support package for national roll-out

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Meredith Borland (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Hugh Mitenko, Mrs Marie Draper		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>Bronchiolitis is a common respiratory viral infection affecting infants in the first year of life and is the commonest reason for babies to be admitted to hospital, with significant costs to the health service as a whole and to the families individually. The Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative (PREDICT) network's Australasian Bronchiolitis Guideline, endorsed by all relevant Australian and New Zealand medical and nursing colleges, advises that there are no proven therapies to change the course of the disease. The recommended treatment is supportive with provision of fluids for hydration and oxygen as needed. However, data from Australia and internationally has shown the continued use of five interventions proven to be both ineffective and costly in the management of bronchiolitis. Results from a recently completed cluster randomised controlled trial (26 hospitals in Australia and New Zealand) has shown that implementation strategies (auditing, clinician feedback on the care they delivered, educational presentations and parent information sheets/videos) can reduce the use of these proven ineffective interventions. These improvements were, however, demonstrated within the tight processes of a clinical trial and it is unknown how these strategies are used or modified in everyday practice. The aims of this study are to improve the care of infants who present with bronchiolitis at four West Australian hospitals emergency departments by implementing evidence-based strategies to reduce the use of ineffective interventions and gain a thorough understanding of local adaption processes. This information will be used to further refine the implementation strategies for development of a National Bronchiolitis Implementation Support Package.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	13/1/2021	Ethics Expiry	13/1/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	11/6/2021 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS4285 - WA Country Health Service Myringoplasty Audit

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Katherine Pollaers (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	For many years, Ear Nose and Throat specialists have been visiting rural and remote Western Australia, conducting consultations and performing operations, including myringoplasties (surgical repair of the ear drum). A ten year retrospective audit of myringoplasty outcomes in the West Kimberley from 2004 to 2014 was published in 2018. This audit identified low levels of complete clinical follow-up and a myringoplasty success rate of less than 50%. Surgical audit is imperative in understand reasons for observed outcomes and working towards improving these outcomes. The aim of this audit is to establish a prospective database of all myringoplasties performed in any hospital in the Kimberley, under WACHS governance.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	17/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	17/5/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Halls Creek Hospital, Kununurra Hospital)		

RGS4287 - The delivery of aged care services and telehealth during COVID-19 in the Kimberley region of Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Karen Clark-Burg (University of Notre Dame Australia)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	This project proposes to define the processes involved in providing aged care in the Kimberley region of Western Australia (WA) during the COVID-19 time period. Using a case study approach, the study will provide a holistic understanding of the challenges and strengths of delivering aged care and use of telehealth services. The findings will assist in preparing for future pandemics and health crises amongst this and similar populations throughout remote Australia.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	19/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	19/4/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following site: Kimberley (Kimberley Aged and Community Services)		

RGS4322 - Review of Otolaryngology outreach clinics in the COVID era: lessons learnt and future directions

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Luke O'Neil (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>COVID-19 has brought many challenges for people working in healthcare and even more so for patients who need to access healthcare, particularly those at high risk. As a service, the ENT team has had to quickly adapt to the barriers in providing services in the Kimberley region of Western Australia by altering our consultations to be through a digital mediums instead of the traditional face to face model. The objective of our study is to retrospectively and prospectively review the consultation process including outcomes to identify aspects of ENT Telehealth service delivery that can be improved in the future. The use of Telehealth services in providing care to Indigenous Australians has been promising, with a recent systematic review suggesting that it can be used to address poor accessibility to services. However, the review was limited by its small number of included papers, many of which has small sample sizes. Furthermore, there were no ENT papers included in the review. Our project is the first audit of telehealth outreach clinics in ENT in Western Australia and offers an opportunity to identify how we can utilise telehealth in our service structure in the future.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	4/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	4/5/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Halls Creek Hospital, Kununurra Hospital, Wyndham Hospital)		

RGS4426 - Rapid Expansion of Telehealth in the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Elizabeth Thomas (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Justin Manuel, Ms Stephanie Waters, Ms Tonia Ledwith		
WACHS Region(s)	Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements and restrictions on non-essential face-to-face activity has fostered rapid increase in uptake of telehealth as a mode of delivery. Use of telephone and video consults has enabled clinical care to continue for patients unable to attend the hospital during COVID-19 restrictions, leading to a rapid rise in the use of this modality. This rapid change in service delivery provides an opportunity for WACHS to explore how the rapid upscaling of telehealth has impacted service activity and explore the effect of this on the health of country patients. This project will address several research questions in this area. The first question, relating to telehealth activity, will involve an interrogation of existing data to determine how hospital service utilisation and the use of telehealth and non-telehealth activity changed over the initial pandemic period. The second question, relating to the impact of changes on health outcomes, will explore several health outcome indicators, focussing on particular clinical specialties. Although, it is noted that any changes to health outcome indicators cannot be directly linked to changes in hospital attendance or telehealth utilisation, understanding changes in patient health is an important priority for WACHS. It is also important to understand the impact of telehealth expansion to inform future resource allocation and service planning.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	12/1/2021	Ethics Expiry	12/1/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following site: Central Office		

RGS4453 - WACHS Childhood Immunisation Coverage Rates: Stakeholder Workshop

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Sian Tomkinson (The University of Western Australia)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	All regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>Immunisation is an important aspect of healthcare, reducing the spread of numerous diseases. However, many people worldwide lack access to vaccines or choose not to vaccinate. In some countries the percentage of people getting vaccinated has stagnated, or even reversed. In Australia overall coverage rates have been increasing, progressing towards the Commonwealth Government's goal of 95%. However, some locations have sub-optimal coverage. Recently the WA Country Health Service observed that coverage rates are concerning in regional areas of WA among 24-month-olds. This project's aim is to discover what WA Country Health Service workers and other key actors perceive as reasons why the vaccination rate of 24-month-olds in regional WA is low. It will entail a stakeholder workshop, which WA Country Health Service workers and other key actors will attend via video conferencing software. During the workshop facilitators will conduct presentations on the state of vaccination in regional WA and the "Tailoring Immunisation Programmes" approach. This will be followed by focus groups, during which facilitators will lead discussions on the enablers and barriers to vaccination rates in regional areas.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	17/2/2021	Ethics Expiry	17/2/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	24/3/2021 - All Regions (All regional defaults), Central Office		

RGS4489 - Bringing cancer treatment closer to home for regional patients: assessing patient reported impacts and benefits of delivering outreach chemotherapy, via videoconference (TeleChemotherapy) in the Kimberley region

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Asha Singh (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>Cancer is the leading cause of death in Western Australia, accounting for around three in every ten deaths. One in three country men and one in four country women in WA will have a cancer diagnosis before age 75. While significant improvements have been made in the quality of cancer services, a gap remains in both survival and mortality rates for country people. The further people are away from the metropolitan area, the poorer their outcomes when diagnosed with cancer. TeleChemotherapy provides an opportunity to help overcome the tyranny of distance, while improving patient outcomes and reducing health service costs. This model of care enables regional patients to receive low risk cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, at a regional (recipient) site with the support of specialist clinicians based at a metropolitan (participant) cancer centre via video-supervision (telehealth). Currently patients living in the Kimberley region have limited access to regional cancer services and as a result are often required to make multiple trips to Perth for cancer treatment. This has a significant impact on quality of life and is known to influence patients' uptake and completion of treatment. Broome Regional Hospital recently implemented a TeleChemotherapy service to bring cancer treatment closer to home for Kimberley patients. This evaluation project will assess the Broome TeleChemotherapy pilot site for patient satisfaction, patient perception of financial burden and overall experience of the TeleChemotherapy unit.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	8/2/2021	Ethics Expiry	8/2/2024
Note	This is a non-research Service Evaluation project at Broome Health Campus that sought HREC approval.		

RGS4510 - Acute Hand Injury Margaret River Emergency Department: Prevalence, mechanism of injury and care pathway

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Narelle Lukins (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>Hand injury is a common presentation to rural emergency departments; young males being the most affected. Hand injuries are significant source of individual psychological, financial, and functional stress that often disrupts daily life and carries the potential for permanent injury with significant societal burden. There is a lack of published acute hand injury epidemiological data with no literature found specific to Australian rural settings. There are between 300-400 hand injury presentations annually to Margaret River Emergency Department (MRED). Care pathways and access to specialist care is variable and are a combination of public and private services depending on health insurance, workers compensation and individual finances. This is further complicated as many services are remote and possibly difficult to access. These care pathways may disrupt daily life for an extended period, and may have cost and psychosocial effects on both the individual and their families. Not following up with recommended care is often a common outcome and may affect long term function and outcomes. This project will be a retrospective epidemiological audit on acute hand injuries and will report the prevalence, mechanism, severity, treatment and planned ongoing care for all acute hand injuries that have presented to MRED between 2018 and 2020. Results of the audit would provide MRED with a clear indication of current practise and provide guidance on ways to improve management and outcomes related to acute hand injuries.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	8/2/2021	Ethics Expiry	8/2/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following site: South West (Margaret River Hospital)		

RGS4531 - Postpartum Haemorrhage in Rural WA: an audit

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Sarah Moore (Rural Clinical School of WA, The University of Western Australia)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Carly Roxburgh, Dr Louise Pearn		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields, Great Southern, South West		
Project Summary	Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) is an important and common obstetric complication with the potential for significant maternal morbidity and mortality. This will be a retrospective multi-centre audit that will measure the prevalence of a range of risk factors for severe PPH as well as management and outcomes at Busselton Health Campus, Esperance District Hospital and Albany Health Campus Maternity Units. Results of this clinical audit will provide all three health facilities with identifying and implementing strategies for improving our management and prevention of severe PPH.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	16/2/2021	Ethics Expiry	16/2/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approval	26/5/2021 - Goldfields (Esperance Hospital), Great Southern (Albany Hospital), South West (Busselton Hospital)		

RGS4585 - Oxford Cognitive Screen- Australian Version (OCS-AU). Determining Australian cut points

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Di Marsden (Hunter New England Local Health District)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mrs Kathleen Lucas, Ms Shae Flint		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	Cognitive screening is recommended in all stroke patients but existing tools are often not appropriate for use in acute stroke (often having been developed for people with dementia or mild cognitive impairment). The Oxford Cognitive Screen (OCS) is a stroke specific screening tool that evaluates six main cognitive domains including language, attention, executive function, numeracy, praxis and memory. The OCS translation to the Australian context has been undertaken in partnership with the OCS team in the United Kingdom. Pilot testing has also been completed. The next step is to test the Australian adapted version of the Oxford Cognitive Screen on a sample of Australian participants without neurological conditions. This will establish whether the scoring cut-off points that indicate reduced cognition for each domain are comparable with those for the UK-OCS.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Hunter New England HREC		
Approval Date	9/12/2020	Ethics Expiry	9/12/2025
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	14/6/2021 - South West (Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS4597 - Evaluating TelePalliative Care in the Home in rural WA: the perspectives of palliative care team members on its usefulness and ease of use

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Kirsten Auret (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Mr Andrew Hall		
WACHS Region(s)	All regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>As part of WA Country Health Service's (WACHS) response to the WA Parliament's Joint Select Committee's Report on End-of-Life Choices, and the requirement to increase access to palliative care support for terminally ill patients, new telehealth services have been developed. The regional palliative care teams have rolled out a TelePalliative Care in the Home (TPCITH) project to improve access to nursing, medical and allied health support to patients who want care within their own home, especially if they live more remotely or are close to death. The TPCITH project was started in the Wheatbelt in 2018 and has gradually been commenced in most other regions, with some teams seeming to be being strong adopters of the technology and others finding it less useful in their care delivery. It is still considered in its pilot phase of roll-out and may require re-design to support further adoption, hence it is of interest as to which factors support staff in accepting and making use of the resource. This mixed method study, focused on the views of health care professionals within the palliative care teams is designed to evaluate the usefulness and ease of use of TPCITH as part of an early assessment across the telehealth implementation cycle.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	17/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	17/5/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	16/6/2021: All Regions (All regional defaults), Central Office		

RGS4647 - Research Capacity and Culture (RCC) Survey for Mental Health Workers in Western Australia (WA)

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Peter McEvoy (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Justin Manuel		
WACHS Region(s)	All regions, Central Office		
Project Summary	The aim of this project is to assess research capacity and culture for mental health services in WA, along with enablers and barriers for mental health workers' involvement in research. To achieve this aim, the project team will disseminate an established and validated research capacity and culture tool to mental health workers and general health workers across WA Health. By identifying enablers and barriers to mental health workers engaging in research, recommendations will be provided that will help to increase capacity to address identified research priorities for the state within clinical settings in preparation for the establishment of a Mental Health Research Strategy for WA.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	22/4/2021	Ethics Expiry	22/4/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	19/5/2021 - All regions (all regional defaults), Central Office		

RGS4650 - Practice Readiness in very remote hospitals: perceptions of early career and later career registered nurses

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Kerry-Ann Wilcox (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>Providing healthcare in geographically remote areas is significantly challenging and attracting and retaining appropriately skilled nursing staff proves to be an ongoing issue. The provision of service and model of care differs greatly from the metropolitan hospitals and requires a broad generalist knowledge as well as emergency department experience from the nurses employed. The purpose of the research is to understand the practice readiness of the registered nurse in their first five years of practice in very remote hospitals. With the noted difficulties in recruitment and retention, and complex nature of healthcare provision in these locations, it is important to understand the perceptions of practice readiness. The proposed research will be undertaken using Qualitative Descriptive method to formulate the theoretical foundation behind the concept of perceptions of practice readiness.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	5/5/2021	Ethics Expiry	5/5/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	13/5/2021 - Kimberley (Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Halls Creek Hospital)		

RGS4662 - Antibiotic prescribing for the management of skin and soft tissue infections - A retrospective drug use evaluation

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mr Matthew Hannagan (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Nikki Tadros		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields		
Project Summary	<p>This study aims to investigate prescribing of antibiotics for skin and soft tissue infections at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital (KRH) from January 2020 to December 2020. The study will provide detailed information on the level of appropriate antibiotic prescribing in the management of skin and soft tissue infections and relevant patient outcomes. Specific objectives related to antibiotic prescribing will include antibiotic selection, dose, route of administration and duration of prescribed antibiotic treatment. Patient related outcomes including the time to resolution of symptoms, length of hospital stay, and readmissions will be examined, providing a key determinant of antibiotic effectiveness. This study will also provide an assessment of the key factors influencing clinician choice of treatment, concordance with Australian Therapeutic Guidelines and appropriateness of antibiotic selection. Achievement of these objectives will provide a foundation for subsequent studies to assess the role of antimicrobial stewardship in the management of skin and soft tissue infections at KRH.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	8/6/2021	Ethics Expiry	8/6/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following site: Goldfields (Kalgoorlie Health Campus)		