



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

WACHS Research Governance

Summary of Approved Projects
July to December 2021

ED-CO-22-14116

Approved Projects – July to December 2021

Approval of human research 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 2021. [Appendix 1](#) provides additional project details including any pending site approvals.

Ethics Review: WACHS HREC Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s)
2020.05 - Clinical management of TIA at selected WA Country Health Service sites	Midwest, South West, Wheatbelt
2021.09 - Regional Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Service Trial	Kimberley
2021.11 - Colonoscopic findings following positive faecal occult blood test	South West
2021.14 - A study to explore Registered and Enrolled Nurses' experience in using the Adult Observation and Response Chart in a Kimberley Health Centre	Kimberley
2021.15 - Gemcitabine associated myositis	Great Southern
2021.18 - Audit on the investigation and management of Acute Rheumatic Fever in children 5 to 14 years old in WACHS Midwest	Midwest
2021.19 - Understanding the challenges for health workers of childhood immunisations in WACHS Midwest	Midwest
2021.21 - An exploration of the delivery and development of culturally appropriate nutrition education resources to women with Diabetes in Pregnancy (DiP) within the Kimberley region	Kimberley
2021.22 - Perception of Inter-professional collaboration among Australian health care worker	Midwest
2021.26 - Evaluate the impact of pharmacist-led medication reviews in an outpatient rehabilitation multidisciplinary team	Great Southern
RGS4197 - Evaluation of the TeleChemotherapy service in country Western Australia	Kimberley, Pilbara, Wheatbelt
RGS4653 - Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Project - Mapping Patient Journeys	Great Southern

RGS4654 - GP Psychiatry Phone Line Evaluation	Great Southern
RGS4788 - Is a cultural lens used to deliver smoking cessation health promotion and education to Aboriginal people in a setting in the Wheatbelt, W.A.?: A narrative inquiry	Wheatbelt
RGS4824 - Priorities for maternity research in WACHS: A Delphi study	Central, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS5088 - Evaluation of the Chronic Conditions Care Coordination Service (CCCCS)	Central

Institutional Authorisation: WACHS Approved Projects

Title	WACHS region(s) with new approved site(s)
RGS1631 - Functional status of survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Western Australia	Central
RGS3220 - Implementation of solutions to improve follow-up for Aboriginal children hospitalised with lower respiratory tract infections	Kimberley, Pilbara
RGS3384 - Pregnancy outcomes for women with pre-existing Diabetes Mellitus in the Geraldton Regional Hospital: a retrospective 10 year review	Kimberley
RGS3419 - A community and health system partnership to reduce hospitalisation and improve outcomes through a Compassionate Communities Model of End of Life Care	South West
RGS3532 - Family and domestic violence in rural emergency departments: A qualitative study of institutional discourse	Midwest
RGS3894 - Identifying the priorities for future child and youth mental health research in Western Australia	Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4136 - Improving recognition and management of chronic wet cough in young Aboriginal children by caregivers and clinicians	Kimberley
RGS4197 - Evaluation of the TeleChemotherapy service in country Western Australia	Kimberley, Pilbara, Wheatbelt
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

RGS4477 - POST-operative Variations in anaemia Treatment and Transfusions	Pilbara
RGS4510 - Acute hand injury in Margaret River Emergency Department	South West
RGS4556 - Early Years Initiative: Family impact	Great Southern
RGS4627 - Determining quality and competence in the specialist practice of Child and Family Health Nursing	Central
RGS4654 - GP Psychiatry Phone Line Evaluation	Great Southern
RGS4662 - Antibiotic prescribing for the management of skin and soft tissue infections - A retrospective drug use evaluation	Goldfields
RGS4788 - Is a cultural lens used to deliver smoking cessation health promotion and education to Aboriginal people in a setting in the Wheatbelt, W.A.?: A narrative inquiry	Wheatbelt
RGS4824 - Priorities for maternity research in WACHS: A Delphi study	Central, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4831 - Telehealth for the delivery of cancer care in Australia: A rapid assessment of telehealth use and barriers and enablers to uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic	Central, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt
RGS4918 - ACTION: Optimising education for the ESCALATION SysTem through clinical simulation	South West
RGS5047 - National retrospective medical record review of sepsis patient document	Pilbara
RGS5088 - Evaluation of the Chronic Conditions Care Coordination Service (CCCCS)	Central

Appendix 1 – Project Details

2020.05 - Clinical management of TIA at selected WA Country Health Service sites			
Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Karen Gifford (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Roy Varghese, Dr Anna Varone, Dr Stephen Hinton		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	This project aims to analyse the characteristics and management of patients presenting to WACHS hospitals with Transient Ischaemic Attack and identify levels of compliance with Stroke Foundation Guidelines. This will support recommendations around Transient Ischaemic Attack management practice improvement initiatives such as pathway implementation and service redesign, leading to improved patient outcomes.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	14/7/2021	Ethics Expiry	14/7/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Hospital, Northam Hospital and Geraldton Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.09 - Regional Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Service Trial

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Stephanie Dwyer (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Kate Matthews, Ms Jeri Mandalay		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>Pelvic health conditions are a significant health problem. Approximately 25-45% of women and 5-32% of men experience urinary incontinence (UI), 12-17% of adults experience overactive bladder (OAB) (urinary urgency, frequency and nocturia) and 5-10% of women experience pelvic organ prolapse (POP). Additionally, 25% of women and 8% of men experience persistent pelvic pain.</p> <p>Assessment and treatment by a physiotherapist with specialist training in pelvic health is considered best practice first line management of urinary continence, OAB and prolapse. Physiotherapists are also recommended in the multi-disciplinary management of persistent pelvic pain. Provision of appropriate and timely specialist pelvic health physiotherapy management can reduce the need for unnecessary medical or surgical interventions, enhance medical or surgical outcomes, improve the patient journey and reduce the overall cost to the health service.</p> <p>This study aims to describe patient and service outcomes, as well as stakeholder feedback on the WACHS Kimberley Pelvic Health Physiotherapy service trial.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	4/8/2021	Ethics Expiry	4/8/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Halls Creek Hospital and Kununurra Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.11 - Colonoscopic findings following positive faecal occult blood test

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Natasha Behrendorff (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Vignesh Palanisamy		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	This audit aims to determine the rate of diagnostic and therapeutic colonoscopies following faecal occult blood test for the local population.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	6/9/2021	Ethics Expiry	6/9/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Bunbury Regional Hospital and Busselton Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.14 - A study to explore Registered and Enrolled Nurses' experience in using the Adult Observation and Response Chart in a Kimberley Health Centre

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Jocelyn Lockhart (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	This Quality Improvement project aims to understand the experiences of the Registered and Enrolled Nurses at the Kimberley Health Centre in completing AORC in order to support the audit results that are conducted monthly to determine compliance with the documentation, escalation and modification process.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	2/11/2021	Ethics Expiry	2/11/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Broome Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.15 - Gemcitabine associated myositis

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Ariyapperuma (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	This case study examines the clinical journey of a patient who presented to Albany Health Campus with abdominal pain and significant weight loss. An examination of CT scans showed a lesion in the pancreatic gland and right lung. Whilst undergoing chemotherapy, the patient developed unusual largely undocumented side effects. This case study aims to share knowledge about possible causes for patients presenting with similar symptoms.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	11/10/2021	Ethics Expiry	Not applicable
Note	This is a case study based at Albany Health Campus that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

2021.18 - Audit on the investigation and management of Acute Rheumatic Fever in children 5 to 14 years old in WACHS Midwest

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Yolande Knight (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Siu Min Tay		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest		
Project Summary	Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease continue to cause significant morbidity in children in Western Australia and can be under-recognised by clinicians who are unfamiliar with these conditions. This audit aims to investigate compliance with WACHS policy of initial investigation and management of Acute Rheumatic Fever with hopes to improve the initial investigation and management of Acute Rheumatic Fever going forward.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	19/10/2021	Ethics Expiry	19/10/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Assurance project at Geraldton Hospital and Canarvon Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.19 - Understanding the challenges for health workers of childhood immunisations in WACHS Midwest

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Yolande Knight (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Siu Min Tay		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest		
Project Summary	This project aims to understand the challenges faced by WACHS Midwest staff who prescribe and/or administer immunisations in line with the changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Schedule. Researcher's hope to identify areas for improvements in immunisation schedule training and provide future training addressing these areas of improvement.		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	9/11/2021	Ethics Expiry	9/11/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Geraldton Regional Hospital and Community Health that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.21 - An exploration of the delivery and development of culturally appropriate nutrition education resources to women with Diabetes in Pregnancy (DiP) within the Kimberley region

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Kylie Hopkins (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Kathryn Johnstone		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>Diabetes in pregnancy, prediabetes and gestational diabetes are associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are at a higher risk of developing gestational diabetes than non-Indigenous women, particularly those who have a family history of gestational diabetes. Data from the most recent Kimberley Profile identified 6.6 per cent of Kimberley Aboriginal women who gave birth developed gestational diabetes in the years 2011/12–2015/16 (Anderson et al, 2018). This project aims to explore the delivery and development of culturally appropriate nutrition education resources to women with Diabetes in Pregnancy (DiP) within the Kimberley region.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	6/12/2021	Ethics Expiry	6/12/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Broome Health Campus, Kununurra Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.22 - Perception of Inter-professional collaboration among Australian health care worker

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Muhammad Shoaib (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest		
Project Summary	<p>The importance of collaboration in the health care is almost unparalleled anywhere else in the workforce as one miscommunication, or lack of instruction, can lead to serious consequences on the outcomes of patients' wellbeing. This is especially evident in the hospital environment where health professionals from various disciplines work together to achieve a common final goal, that is "a safe patient and safe community". There is currently a lack of research and action into the issues of inter-professional collaboration between health professionals from different disciplines and sectors of hospitals. This study uses a survey of people in different roles in the hospital to find their opinion on (a) the role and importance of Inter-professional collaboration in the hospital setting and (b) how is the hospital utilising inter-professional education to improve the inter-professional collaboration. The expected outcome of the project is to identify areas of improvement that could guide future efforts at quality improvement.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	1/12/2021	Ethics Expiry	1/12/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Geraldton Regional Hospital that sought WACHS HREC review.		

2021.26 - Evaluate the impact of pharmacist-led medication reviews in an outpatient rehabilitation multidisciplinary team

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Bree Armstrong (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	<p>Medication review by a clinical pharmacist is a component of the service offered by the interdisciplinary team at Seniors Health and Community Rehabilitation in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia. Clients can be referred to the team via their GP, by other health professionals involved in their care, specialist services, following a hospitalisation (locally or metro) or they can self-refer. Programs offered by the service include group classes for pulmonary rehabilitation, neurology clinics, Parkinson's Disease specific clinics, improving balance/falls prevention and Move Easy for chronic pain sufferers. Clients can also access 1:1 service with an Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Pharmacist, Dietician, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker, Clinical Nurse or Allied Health Assistant.</p> <p>The Pharmacist is involved in providing group education sessions on medications to these groups and individual medication reviews (MR). This evaluation project has been designed to evaluate the impact of the MR service which is provided by the clinical pharmacist over a 6-month period. The results of this evaluation will be used to identify any gaps in service and as part of a quality improvement activity to ensure the client needs are being optimally met.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	14/12/2021	Ethics Expiry	14/12/2024
Note	This is a non-research Quality Improvement project at Albany Health Campus that sought WACHS HREC approval for journal publication.		

RGS1631 - Functional status of survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Judith Finn (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Central		
Project Summary	<p>Cardiac arrest occurring out-of-hospital remains a significant public health issue, with a high case fatality (>90% overall), despite decreasing incidence of coronary artery disease and 50 years since the advent of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Survival outcomes of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Perth, using the St John Ambulance Western Australia cardiac arrest database, were first reported in 2001, however the disposition of the patient at hospital discharge was limited to one of survival or not. This is not best practice according to the International Guidelines for the uniform reporting of data from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, known as the 'Utstein Guidelines', that recommend that a measure of functional/neurological outcome should also be reported. The aim of this project is to 1) determine functional/neurological outcome of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survivors discharged from hospital in Perth and 2) to estimate the prevalence of post-resuscitation practices in Perth hospitals such as therapeutic hypothermia and coronary reperfusion.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group HREC		
Approval Date	25/3/2013	Ethics Expiry	25/3/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	19/10/2021 - Central		

RGS3220 - Implementation of solutions to improve follow-up for Aboriginal children hospitalised with lower respiratory tract infections

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Andre Schultz (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Annie Scanlon, Dr Andrew Savery, Ms Ann Whitney, Ms Grace Hendriks, Dr Melanie Thompson, Mr Jack Anstey, Dr Anna Robson		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley, Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>Aboriginal children hospitalised with acute respiratory infections (ARIs) are particularly vulnerable to developing chronic lung disease. Notably, in WA from 2000-2012, ~8% of Aboriginal children were hospitalised for pneumonia. We previously found that 25% of Aboriginal children had chronic lung disease 12-months post-hospitalisation for pneumonia. The development of chronic disease can be prevented with effective, timely, and culturally appropriate treatment. If children are screened for persistent wet cough one-month post-hospitalisation, and managed optimally if symptoms are present, then chronic lung disease can often be prevented. There is no formal follow-up strategy in WA for Aboriginal children hospitalised with ARIs.</p> <p>This project will implement a solution package to improve follow-up of Aboriginal children hospitalised at PCH or WACHS hospitals with chest infection. This will include: 1) On-line training modules for doctors and other health practitioners including training in Aboriginal lung health and information on culturally effective methods of engaging Aboriginal parents with regards to lung health; 2) Implementation of WA's first culturally appropriate information flip chart on lung health for Aboriginal families; and 3) Health information brochures to primary care clinicians to accompany hospital-discharge letters. The effectiveness of the above solutions will be measured through: 1) Validated questionnaire i.e. cough related quality of life in children 6-12 weeks post hospitalisation; and 2) Telephoning parents and asking them if their children have received medical follow-up post hospitalisation. In addition, we will conduct qualitative interviews with families to determine their understanding about lung health and their experience with discharge processes at the site hospital and follow-up (if any) with their primary health care practitioner, and with health practitioners to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention and explore ways to potentially improve and apply it on a broader scale.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	12/7/2019	Ethics Expiry	12/7/2022
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	21/12/2021 - Kimberley (Hedland Health Campus), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus)		

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)	Midwest, Kimberley		
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) 4/11/2021 - Kimberley (Broome Health Campus)		

RGS3419 – A community and health system partnership to reduce hospitalization and improve outcomes through a Compassionate Communities Model for End of Life Care

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Samar Aoun (La Trobe University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Piari Skeers, Ms Joanne Moore, Ms Jan Stiberc		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>This project aims to develop, implement and evaluate a model of community volunteer, identified as a Compassionate Care Connector, who can enhance patient, carer and family end of life experiences and reduce the need for patients to be admitted to hospital. This approach seeks to map and mobilise people's personal care networks through enlisting Caring Helpers and facilitating access to formal services where necessary. Each Connector will support individuals with advanced illness and their carer/family/social network in the 12 months prior to an expected death. The Investigators aim to train up to 10 Connectors to work with at least 30 families identified by the palliative care service as requiring support. This is a pilot demonstration project that will establish models of care for replication at local, national and international levels.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	24/2/2020	Ethics Expiry	24/2/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	<p>3/4/2020 - South West (Boyup Brook Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Bridgetown District Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Busselton Hospital, Collie Hospital, Donnybrook Hospital, Harvey Hospital, Margaret River Hospital, Nannup Hospital, Pemberton Hospital, South West Population Health Unit, South West Regional Aged Care)</p> <p>12/7/2021 - South West (Augusta District Hospital, Warren Health Service)</p>		

RGS3532 - Family and domestic violence in rural emergency departments: A qualitative study of institutional discourse

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Sheree Moore (Charles Sturt University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Grant Patrick		
WACHS Region(s)	Midwest		
Project Summary	<p>Family and domestic violence (FDV) contributes significantly to Australia's population rates of mortality, morbidity, and childhood trauma. The severity and frequency of FDV appears to increase with remoteness, however remote communities often lack specialist resources and rely on mainstream health services for general care needs. Emergency departments (ED) within remote hospitals are therefore vital to improving rates of FDV in these areas. Prior research investigating ED staff subjectivities indicates evidence of frustration and assumptions which may contribute to problematic responses in respect to FDV. It is unclear however whether this is occurring in Australian remote ED's specifically or what might be influencing staff understandings and responses. This study therefore aims to explore how and why staff understand and respond to FDV in certain ways by taking an institutional and contextual perspective of this phenomenon in a small number of Australian remote ED's. This will involve a critical psychology approach using a poststructural epistemology consistent with Foucauldian discourse (Foucault, 1963) and Queer Theory (Butler, 2006) to examine FDV-related discourse and institutional power within a specific sociohistorical context. Remote ED case study observations will be used to provide descriptive contextual information to inform further data collection and analysis. Data from policy documents, observations, and staff focus groups and interviews will then be analysed using Foucauldian Discourse Analysis. Analysis will occur within and between data sets in an attempt to achieve explanatory depth which could inform policy and clinical practice.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network HREC		
Approval Date	20/01/2021	Ethics Expiry	20/01/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	29/10/2021 - Midwest (Carnarvon Health Campus)		

RGS3894 - Identifying the priorities for future child and youth mental health research in Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Jacinta Freeman (Telethon Kids Institute)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>The overarching aim of the study is to identify the top ten priorities for future child and youth mental health research in Western Australia. Young people are disproportionately affected by mental health disorders, accounting for nearly half of the overall burden of disease, and is the leading cause of disability for young people aged 10 to 24 years of age. It has been reported that 75% of mental disorders emerge by the age of 25 years.</p> <p>The current research agenda for the mental health concerns of children and young people has typically been set by researchers; it is possible that the research questions they have posed may not be aligned with those experiencing mental health concerns or with the professionals delivering services to the children, young people and their families. The identification of the top priorities for future child and youth mental health research, from the perspectives of both young people (aged 14 to 25 years), their parents/carers and professionals working in the child and youth mental health sector in WA, has yet to be fully explored. This project will provide the opportunity for members of the community who have lived experience of child and youth mental health concerns and the mental health professionals working with them to prioritise areas for future research through completing an online survey and participating in a consensus workshop.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	29/4/2021	Ethics Expiry	29/4/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	23/9/2021 - Goldfields (Esperance Community Health, Kalgoorlie Health Campus), Great Southern (Albany Hospital, Katanning Hospital), Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Kununurra Hospital), Midwest (Carnarvon Health Campus, Geraldton Hospital, Meekatharra Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus), South West (Bridgetown District Hospital, Bunbury Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Busselton Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), Wheatbelt (Merredin Health Service, Narrogin Health Service, Northam Health Service).		

RGS4136 - Improving recognition and management of chronic wet cough in young Aboriginal children by caregivers and clinicians

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Andre Schultz (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Project Summary	<p>Chronic suppurative lung disease (CSLD) including bronchiectasis, is common in developing countries and Indigenous populations (one in 63- 68 children), and causes premature death in children living in developing countries and in Indigenous Australian adults (death when aged 30-40s). These are largely preventable if the pre-CLSD state and CSLD is recognised early and optimally treated. Chronic wet cough is the dominant symptom in these conditions. Evidence strongly suggests that timely detection and optimal management of chronic (>4-wks duration) wet cough in Aboriginal children can prevent a substantial proportion of chronic lung disease in adults through halting the infection-inflammation cycle and preventing permanent lung damage. Optimal management of chronic wet cough by health care practitioners is theoretically very simple but implementing evidence in clinical practice is proving complex and challenging.</p> <p>Through this knowledge translation project we will use implementation science to determine barriers and facilitators to optimal treatment of chronic wet cough in three key regions in Australia i.e. Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. We will work in partnership with Aboriginal health services, Government agencies and communities and build on our pilot work to develop and implement evidenced based strategies to improve the detection and management of chronic wet cough in Aboriginal children. Working together to translate high quality research into health policy and practice will create and strengthen partnerships between health policy makers, managers, service providers and researchers. By bridging the gap between evidence and practice we will reduce the chronic lung disease burden in Aboriginal children and prevent the progression of disease into adulthood.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	28/7/2020	Ethics Expiry	28/7/2023
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	16/08/2021 – Kimberley (Kimberley Population Health Unit, Halls Creek Hospital)		
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Kimberley (Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Kununurra Hospital), Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus, Newman Hospital, Pilbara Population Health)		

RGS4197 - Evaluation of the TeleChemotherapy service in country Western Australia

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Wei-Sen Lam (WACHS & Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Asha Singh, Ms Jessica McNeill, Ms Melissa Pola, Ms Christine Henneker		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley, Pilbara, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>In 2019, the Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) implemented a telehealth service to provide specialist oncologist support to patients receiving chemotherapy at rural and remote areas in Western Australia (WA). This TeleChemotherapy service supports oncologists at metropolitan tertiary cancer centres to consult with patients in three WACHS regions: the Pilbara, Kimberley, and Wheatbelt. Initially, patients with cancer from country WA will see an oncologist face-to-face at a tertiary centre in Perth and the diagnosis and treatment plan are discussed. Oftentimes, patients will receive their first treatments at this time. Patients then transfer their care to the nearest participating regional health service: Karratha Health Campus (Pilbara), Broome Health Campus (Kimberley) or Narrogin Health Service (Wheatbelt). This ongoing care is supported by supervising oncologists via telehealth, where the patient is present at the regional hospital accompanied by a chemotherapy nurse who provides patient education and facilitates the consult.</p> <p>An evaluation framework has been developed by WACHS to investigate many aspects of the TeleChemotherapy service as well as its ongoing progress to achieve the strategic goals of WA Health. This proposed research project sits within this framework and aims to: 1) explore the experiences of patients treated with TeleChemotherapy; 2) investigate perspectives and satisfaction of healthcare workers; 3) estimate measures of service utilisation and cost; and 4) assess quality and safety measures. The results of this project will inform future development and rollout of TeleChemotherapy to other sites, be disseminated to the local communities where appropriate, and form the basis for benchmarking among similar services across the country.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	13/7/2021	Ethics Expiry	13/7/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	23/9/2021 - Kimberley (Broome Health Campus), Pilbara (Karratha Health Campus), Wheatbelt (Narrogin Health Service)		

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			
Approved	28/10/2021 – 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			
Approved	23/11/2021 - Kimberley (Broome Health Campus, Derby Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing Hospital, Halls Creek Hospital, Kununurra Hospital, Wyndham Hospital)		

RGS4477 - POST-operative Variations in anaemia Treatment and Transfusions

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Toby Richards (Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr John van Bockxmeer, Dr Kyle Raubenheimer		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>Anaemia affects nearly a quarter of the world and common in surgical patients with a third of patients presenting with preoperative anaemia and three quarters of patients discharged from hospital with anaemia. Perioperative anaemia is associated with increase postoperative complications and delay patient recovery leading to increased morbidity and mortality in the perioperative patient. Anaemia also leads to an increased use of allogeneic blood transfusions, which is an independent risk for the poorer patient outcomes. Postoperative anaemia can additionally be due to perioperative blood loss at operations or secondary to the surgical inflammatory process associated with surgery that causes an increase in hepcidin production, resulting in a functional iron deficiency, thereby affecting erythropoiesis.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been significant increase in the use of intravenous iron therapy in line with major guidelines. This is common practice in Western Australia but has been significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic. POSTVENTT aims to increase our understanding of variability and adherence to anaemia guidelines and the impact of this in clinical care following major abdominal surgery</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	South Metropolitan Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	21/1/2021	Ethics Expiry	21/1/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	21/07/2021- Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus)		

RGS4510 - Acute hand injury in Margaret River Emergency Department

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Narelle Lukins (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above		
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). Anecdotally, these injuries are often employees in the wine industry and the tourist service industry, as well as participating in specific sports i.e. mountain biking, skate boarding. 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			
Approved	26/10/2021 - South West (Margaret River Hospital)		

RGS4556 - Early Years Initiative: Family impact

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Rosemary Cahill (Telethon Kids Institute)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Donna Woithe, Ms Susan Thompson, Ms Diane House		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	<p>The EYI is a long-term partnership involving the Western Australian State Government and the Minderoo Foundation operating in four 'partner' communities (one remote, one very remote, one regional and one metropolitan) to fast-track improvements to the development, health and learning of children from conception to four years of age. It is anticipated that lessons from the EYI may apply at scale in the future to other places. An independent and multi-faceted evaluation of the EYI will be conducted by Telethon Kids Institute to inform those lessons. This Family Impact Sub-study is one part of that multi-faceted evaluation.</p> <p>The Family Impact Sub-study will use a range of individual and group mixed-method research methods to measure changes within EYI partner communities to family-level mechanisms hypothesised to mediate the health, development and learning of children from conception to four years of age. Specifically, the EYI evaluation's Family Impact Sub-study will address the following research questions: 1) To what extent is the EYI achieving the intended outcomes of improving primary caregivers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes to support positive child development?; 2) To what extent is the EYI achieving the intended outcome of families accessing and utilising a range of supports, advice, programs, and services to support positive child development?; and 3) To what extent are the activities of the EYI addressing concerns/needs of primary caregivers in partner communities? Study participants will comprise parents and primary caregivers of children from conception to four years of age living in EYI partner communities during the data collection period. Data for this sub-study will be collected in each partner community at approximately three-year intervals (2021 - 2024 - 2027) and compared over time. The data will be collected via methods co-designed with the communities and may include: i) surveys of individual parent/caregivers with children in the conception-to-four-years age-range; ii) time-usage diaries; and iii) focus groups or interviews with volunteer parents or service providers to pursue emerging lines of enquiry that arise from survey findings.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	10/3/2021	Ethics Expiry	10/3/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	27/10/2021 - Great Southern (Gnowangerup Community Health Centre, Katanning Child Health Service, Kojonup Child Health Service, Tambellup Nursing Post)		

RGS4627 - Determining quality and competence in the specialist practice of Child and Family Health Nursing

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Julian Grant (Charles Sturt University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Central Office		
Project Summary	<p>The purpose of this research is to determine how quality and competence is identified and measured in the specialist practice of Child and Family Health Nursing in organisations across Australian jurisdictions. The research will seek access to documents within organisations across Australian jurisdictions that are related to quality and competence in the specialist practice of Child and Family Health Nursing and the perspectives of key stakeholders who agree to take part in the study. Access to documents will establish if any common documents exist across Australian jurisdictions in the specialist practice of Child and Family Health Nursing. Key stakeholders will be invited to take part in individual semi structured interviews. The findings will inform Child and Family Health Nursing practice and policy around service provision for children birth to five years and their families.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Hunter New England HREC		
Approval Date	25/1/2021	Ethics Expiry	25/1/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	10/8/2021- Central Office		

RGS4653 - Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Project - Mapping Patient Journeys

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Helen Milroy (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Michael Taran, Dr Mathew Coleman		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	<p>The Mapping Patient Journeys study is part of a larger research project – the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWP) Project. The TIMHWP project aims to contribute to improving primary and mental health care with respect to cultural safety and responsiveness in mental health care services and social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples and communities. An integral part of this project is the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service users in co-design and consultation. Therefore this project aims to be iterative in its design with a focus on ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have significant input into the ongoing design and execution of the project at all stages. From here on, we will respectfully use the term Aboriginal peoples to refer to the Indigenous peoples of Australia.</p> <p>The study proposed herein applies a mixed methodology, drawing on both qualitative and quantitative techniques, to investigate the complex interactions involved in the delivery of mental health care to Aboriginal peoples who access the Great Southern Mental Health Service. This study will be conducted in two arms running concurrently. Arm one will utilise qualitative methodology to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' experiences of using and being referred to the Great Southern Mental Health Service. Arm two will apply quantitative methodology to understand the complex interactions involved in the journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' through the Great Southern Mental Health Service. This arm will apply, for what is believed to be the first time, state-of-the-art mathematical network techniques to track, model, analyse and understand the complex interactions in the delivery of mental health care to service-users. This will involve constructing a multilayered network model of patient trajectories. This twofold approach will improve understandings of patterns of service access that will enable us to posit potential service improvement interventions to improve service delivery to Aboriginal peoples who use this service.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	10/11/2021	Ethics Expiry	10/11/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Note	Approval has not yet been granted for the following sites: Great Southern (Great Southern Mental Health Service – Albany)		

RGS4654 - Psychiatry Phone Line Evaluation

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Mathew Coleman (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Dr Michael Taran, Dr Kelly Ridley		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Project Summary	<p>This project is an evaluation of the GP Psychiatry Phone Line (GPPPL). The GPPPL supports General Practitioners (GPs) in the Great Southern (GS) region to provide better mental health (MH) care to their patients in the primary healthcare setting, and is being implemented from January until December 2021. The aim of the GPPPL is to assist and build capacity among GPs in managing high prevalence, low risk mental health and AOD presentations whilst signposting access to specialist services for more complex cases if required. The service does not act as a referral pathway, and clinical care and governance for patient care remain with the GP.</p> <p>The service is accessible to GPs only via a mobile phone number from Monday to Friday (08:30 to 18:00). GPs contacting the GPPPL after hours can leave a message and the call is returned the next business day. The calls are managed by consultant psychiatrists and the Clinical Director at GS Mental Health Service (GSMHS). The GPPPL psychiatrists collect basic demographic information and clinical information for the purpose of evaluation on a contact sheet, and each call is recorded as a clinical event. The GPPPL psychiatrists also identify knowledge or service gaps in primary care to then develop targeted education and training sessions to GPs in the region as identified or requested through the service.</p> <p>The evaluation will use a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the implementation of the GPPPL, using quantitative data from existing GPPPL contact sheets and WACHS databases, and a brief GP evaluation survey, and qualitative data from semi-structured interviews conducted with GPs.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	6/9/2021	Ethics Expiry	6/9/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	21/12/2022 - Great Southern (Great Southern Mental Health Service – Albany, Great Southern Mental Health Service – Katanning)		

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, Mr Ibrahim Ibrahim		
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.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	8/6/2021	Ethics Expiry	8/6/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	16/08/2021 - Goldfields (Kalgoorlie Health Campus)		

RGS4788 - Is a cultural lens used to deliver smoking cessation health promotion and education to Aboriginal people in a setting in the Wheatbelt, W.A.? : A narrative inquiry

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Jaimee Rich (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Not applicable		
WACHS Region(s)	Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>This study aims to hear the unique perspectives and experiences of the participants and facilitators of a 'Ngamari Free' event, a health promotion event conducted by the Wheatbelt Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program that aims to promote ngamari (smoke) free communities, to explore the cultural safety and competence of the smoking cessation health promotion and education delivered to Aboriginal people in the Wheatbelt region. This study prioritises the involvement of members of the Aboriginal community in the development and implementation of the study to ensure the research is Aboriginal-led, which allows the research to effectively address the needs of the community in relation to the delivery of health promotion messages that are culturally safe and appropriate. The involvement of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal community in this capacity maximises the potential for this research to result in meaningful change within Aboriginal communities both locally and nationally. The following research question will be proposed in this study; 'Do 'Ngamari Free' health promotion events conducted by the Wheatbelt TIS program delivered to Aboriginal clients in the Wheatbelt W.A. align with an 'Aboriginal lens' framework for health promotion?'. The findings of this study intend to inform the continued provision of the Wheatbelt TIS program at the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service (WAHS) by acting as a form of evidence to support future funding applications for the program, promote reflection on current processes and practices and encourage the identification of opportunities to improve the way future health promotion events are delivered within the Wheatbelt TIS program. On a larger scale context, the results of this study also strive to inform the quality improvement of policies and procedures that guide the provision of health education programs for Aboriginal people, as well as to inform the provision of similar smoking cessation and chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	1/7/2021	Ethics Expiry	1/7/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	2/9/2021 – Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service)		

RGS4824 - Priorities for maternity research in WACHS: A Delphi study

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mrs Tarryn Sharp (WACHS)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	As above, Ms Giselle OConnor		
WACHS Region(s)	Central, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>The purpose of this Delphi study is to clearly prioritise research needs for Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) maternity care and ensure that maternity professionals employed by WACHS participate in the identification and prioritisation of these research needs, as experts in the field. Midwives, obstetricians, GP obstetricians, Aboriginal maternity workers, and midwifery managers / leaders will be invited to contribute in this collaborative research. The findings will report the first-ever systematic and scientific consensus of maternity research priorities identified by the maternity professionals working in the unique settings presented in rural and remote Western Australia. Utilising the rigorous, methodological process of the Delphi will offer an evidence-informed list of research priorities as identified by WACHS maternity professionals. With the results directly impacting the maternity services, it is anticipated that the study will enhance engagement and enthusiasm within the maternity team to undertake research locally, potentially, with multi-site collaborations within WA or nationally. This supports the strategic direction for maternity services outlined in the Woman-Centered Care Strategic approach to Maternity Services which calls for increased resourcing of a responsive and competent workforce.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	27/07/2021	Ethics Expiry	27/07/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	21/10/2021- Central Office, All regions (regional defaults)		

RGS4831 - Telehealth for the delivery of cancer care in Australia: A rapid assessment of telehealth use and barriers and enablers to uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Anthony Smith (The University of Queensland)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Wei-Sen Lam		
WACHS Region(s)	Central, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt		
Project Summary	<p>This research (commissioned by Cancer Australia, conducted by UQ researchers) aims to better understand the use of telehealth in delivering cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic, including barriers and enablers to uptake. Specifically the project will: 1. Identify how telehealth was used across the cancer care pathway during COVID-19 and the nature of these consultations; and 2. Understand the service-level, practitioner-level, and patient-level barriers and facilitators of telehealth use within cancer care. Methods are based on the telehealth framework Model for the Assessment of Telemedicine (MAST). We will engage with selected services (as put forward by Cancer Australia) and collect four categories of data: 1) Online surveys of select cancer care clinicians and administrators; 2) Semi-structured qualitative interviews with clinicians and administrators (approx. 5 per site); 3) Online surveys of consumers; and 4) Semi-structured qualitative interviews with consumers (approx. 5 per site). Reported findings will be translated to practical recommendations to increase or maintain effective service provision.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Townsville Hospital and Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	9/6/2021	Ethics Expiry	16/2/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	22/7/2021 - Central Office, All regions (regional defaults)		

RGS4918 - ACTION: Optimising education for the ESCALATION System through clinical simulation

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Fenella Gill (Perth Children's Hospital)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Mr Scott Stokes		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Project Summary	<p>We developed a system to assist nurses and doctors and involve families to recognise and respond to early signs when a child's health condition is worsening. Following an education and training program for health professionals (nurses and doctors), the system called ESCALATION was rolled out at Perth Children's Hospital with plans to roll out across other Western Australian (WA) Health facilities where children are cared for. The aim of this pilot study is to understand if the PCH ESCALATION System education and training program adequately prepares health professionals with differing and varied paediatric experience and knowledge. We will invite 20 participants (16 nurses and 4 doctors) to volunteer to complete the ESCALATION System education and training program and participate in clinical simulation where they will use the ESCALATION System in up to four clinical scenarios. We will use five main outcomes to assess how nurses and doctors perform in clinical scenarios where they will care for patients (manikins) and interact with parents played by actors. The outcomes we will measure are; the appropriateness of responses to a child becoming unwell, time to take action to escalate care, communication between health professionals, quality of documentation, family involvement, and participant experience. The results from this pilot study will inform the education and training program for the ESCALATION System which will assist nurses and doctors to identify and care for children who are becoming more unwell.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC		
Approval Date	11/10/2021	Ethics Expiry	11/10/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	11/11/2021 - South West (Busselton Hospital, Bunbury Hospital)		

RGS5047 - National retrospective medical record review of sepsis patient document

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Mr Christopher Boyd-Skinner (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Dr Melissa Maluda		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Project Summary	<p>The purpose of this study is to assess the clinical documentation of patients with sepsis to examine: 1) The relationship between sepsis ICD-10-AM coding practices, and potential underestimation of sepsis cases in Australia; 2) Instances of detection, recognition and clinical management of sepsis from the review that could be considered as 'best practice; and 3) Factors that influence or are commonly associated with deviation from local, district or jurisdictional sepsis clinical management guidelines, and the potential reasons for this deviation (including care setting, workforce, location and time). The review will include sepsis patients over 3 months of age and will exclude end-of-life care pathway patients. It is expected the review will lead to improved practice guidance on recognition and management of sepsis across the hospital and pre-hospital settings.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	Northern Sydney Local Health District HREC		
Approval Date	14/9/2021	Ethics Expiry	14/9/2026
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	8/11/2021 Pilbara (Hedland Health Campus)		

RGS5088 - Evaluation of the Chronic Conditions Care Coordination Service (CCCCS)

Coordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Delia Hendrie (Curtin University)		
WACHS Researcher(s)	Ms Kendra Mutch, Mr Aqif Mukhtar		
WACHS Region(s)	Central		
Project Summary	<p>Chronic conditions are an important global, national and individual health concern, accounting for 74% of deaths worldwide. People with chronic conditions have higher health care needs than the general population and account for proportionately more hospital admissions and other health care contacts. With health care systems struggling to deal with the increasing needs of people with chronic conditions, coordinated or integrated care programs have been trialed as a means to improve patient care and deliver savings in health care costs. In WA the Chronic Conditions Care Coordination Service (CCCCS) has been jointly funded by the WA Country Health Service and WA Primary Health Alliance to support people with chronic conditions living in country WA.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to analyse the data collected on the Chronic Condition (CC) dashboard to determine patient profiles and service utilisation of participants enrolled in the CCCCCS. A retrospective population-based study using a pre-post study design will be conducted using non-identifiable data on hospital separations and emergency department (ED) visits for the 12-month period pre-enrolment in the CCCCCS and the 12-month period post-enrolment. This data will be analysed to determine the following: (i) the profile of participants who are enrolled in the study (ii) hospital separations and ED visits in the year preceding enrolment in the CCCCCS and the year post-enrolment and (iii) the cost of hospital separations and ED visits in the year pre- and post-enrolment.</p>		
Ethics			
Lead HREC	WACHS HREC		
Approval Date	24/11/2021	Ethics Expiry	24/11/2024
Institutional Authorisation			
Approved	10/12/2021 - Central Office		