

2013

RESEARCH

REPORT

EMERGENCY  
SERVICES

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services research at Eastern Health is facilitated through the Emergency Department Research Committee.

A multidisciplinary approach to research is evident both in the representation of all disciplines on the research committee and in research project participation. The primary aims of the committee are to promote a culture of research within the emergency department, incorporate research in everyday clinical practice and to facilitate and support staff interested in participating in research projects.

The Emergency Department Research Committee membership:

- Associate Professor Debbie Leach, Emergency Department Clinical Director, Eastern Health, Committee Chair
- Dr Andrew Maclean, Emergency Department Director
- Michelle Grummisch, Emergency Department Nurse Practitioner, Research Assistant
- Sonya Moran, Emergency Department, Nurse Unit Manager
- Dr John Johnson, Emergency Physician
- Caroline Murray, Clinical Resource Nurse
- Karen Bolton, Primary Care Physiotherapist

Affiliations and support to projects generated outside of emergency medicine, past and current include University of Melbourne, Monash, La Trobe and Deakin universities, the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) Clinical Trials Group, the Emergency Care Improvement and Innovation Clinical Network and other Eastern Health departments, particularly neurosciences.

Both collaborative and in-house projects are aimed at improving the quality of patient care by implementing research findings to everyday clinical practice. Furthermore the research committee aims to continue to expand its focus by introducing clinical research studies in partnership with the Centre for Clinical Research in Emergency Medicine as well as investigate projects which focus on streamlining care for patients presenting to the emergency department.

**Program Director** Ben Kelly

**Clinical Director** Associate Professor Debbie Leach

## Funding/Grants

Improving the management of gastroenteritis in children presenting to ED ECIICN funding grant. Fleming D, Freeman C. \$5000.

Controlled oxygen therapy for patients with COPD: Sustain and refresh ECIICN funding grant. Alabodi H, Arnott K, Dankert J. \$5000.

## Projects in progress

Projects in progress by the unit during the course of the past year have included:

### 'Dirty Little Secret': Emergency Department Hand Hygiene Project

Lead researcher: McShane J. This project aims to demonstrate how a locally-led Hand Hygiene (HH) education program improves compliance of Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department staff by presenting HH audit results. It will describe the process of introducing a successful HH program in the environment and identify the limitations, challenges and triumphs of implementing this initiative.

### Improving the management of gastroenteritis in children presenting to emergency department

Lead researchers: Freeman C, Emergency Care Improvement and Innovation Clinical Network. This ECIICN multidisciplinary and multi-site project will evaluate the introduction of a guideline of care for paediatric patients presenting to the emergency department with symptoms of gastroenteritis. Outcomes include early identification of dehydration and initiation of oral rehydration.

### Controlled oxygen therapy for patients with COPD: Sustain and refresh

Lead researchers: Emergency Care Improvement and Innovation Clinical Network, Alabodi H, Arnott K, Dankert J. In 2011, a guideline of care to manage patients presenting to the emergency department with COPD was introduced. This project is an evaluation of the sustainability of the education program as measured by correct application of oxygen therapy and identification and documentation of CO<sub>2</sub> retention for this patient population.

### Does the introduction of a specific analgesic guideline in the ED improve time to analgesia and overall pain management practices?

Lead researchers: Smith S, Price M, Chow L, Tierney J. This project will evaluate whether the introduction of a specific pain management guideline for both adult and paediatric patients will provide a more consistent approach to analgesia prescribing as well as improving time to analgesia, overall pain assessment and documentation for patients presenting to our emergency department.

### Implementing paediatric procedural sedation in emergency departments

Lead researchers: Walsh L, Boxsell L. Emergency Care Improvement and Innovation Clinical Network. This multidisciplinary and multi-site project aimed to standardise and improve paediatric procedural sedation in emergency departments through introduction of a guideline, staff training, credentialing and education. Outcomes are to be assessed against key audit criteria associated with the process of procedural sedation. Local results show minimal change in practice following implementation of the guideline. Overall results are pending.

## Research training

Lowe G. PhD (Year 4) Nursing, Nurse Practitioners in Australian healthcare settings: A mixed methods study of the structural, human resource, political and symbolic implications for organisational change, Monash University, P/T

## Publications for period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

### JOURNALS

#### Published

Lowe G, Plummer V, Boyd L. Nurse practitioner roles in Australian healthcare settings. *Nursing management*. 2013; 20(2), 28-35.

Ong CW, Malipatil V, Lavercombe KG, Teo GW, Coughlin PB, Leach D, Spanger MC, Thien F. Implementation of a clinical prediction tool for pulmonary embolism diagnosis in a tertiary teaching hospital reduces the number of computed tomography pulmonary angiograms performed. *Internal Medicine Journal*. 2013. 43(2), 169-174.

## Conference including proceedings, papers, posters

### NATIONAL

Smith S, Price M, Chow L, Tierney J. Does the introduction of a specific analgesic guideline in the ED improve time to analgesia and overall pain management practices? College of Emergency Nursing Australia conference, Tasmania. October, 2012.

5 Arnold St  
Box Hill  
Victoria 3128  
Australia

PO Box 94  
Box Hill  
Victoria 3128

Ph: 03 9895 3333  
Fax: 03 9895 3176

[www.easternhealth.org.au](http://www.easternhealth.org.au)

 Follow us on twitter @EHcomms

ABN: 68 223 819 017



Telephone Interpreter Service

Servizi Interpreti

傳譯服務

Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων

خدمات الترجمة الشفهية

Ph: 131 450

## ACCESSING PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORTS

Eastern Health is committed to building a culture of research and ensuring such research is embedded in everyday clinical practice. Eastern Health contributes to local, national and international research activity. This document forms part of the broader sixth annual *2013 Eastern Health Research Report* reflecting the high-calibre research, commitment and strength of research programs across Eastern Health. A hard copy of the complete *2013 Research Report* including program activity reports is available by contacting The Office of Research & Ethics on **9895 9551** or via download from [www.easternhealth.org.au](http://www.easternhealth.org.au)

*Readers note: Where projects are collaborative with our respective research partners, Eastern Health staff names are in bold.*

### Clinical program reports available include:

- Allied Health
- Cardiology
- Eastern Health Clinical School and Eastern Clinical Research Unit (ECRU)
- Eastern Clinical Research Unit – Translational Division (ECRU-TRD)
- Eastern Health Clinical School Research Division, Medical Student Programs
- Emergency services
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Geriatric
- Haematology
- Integrated Renal and Obstetric services
- Intensive Care services
- Mental Health programs
- Neuroscience
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Oncology
- Palliative Care
- Pharmacy
- Respiratory and Sleep Medicine
- Rheumatology
- Surgical Research Group
- Turning Point