



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

April to June 2018 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – April to June 2018 quarter.

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries available for the April to June 2018 quarter.

Project Title	Improving the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-prisoners in Australia		
Principal Investigator	Professor David Preen		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	1 January 2018	Finish Date	26 April 2021
<p>This study will be the largest and most in-depth study ever carried out on the health of ex-prisoners. The study will examine health outcomes and patterns of health service utilisation after their release from prison, and explore how health-related outcomes influence the risk of subsequent re-incarceration. This study will also look at differences in health outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-prisoners.</p> <p>The data is sourced from face-to-face interviews with prisoners in Western Australia and Queensland, combined with a review of prison medical records and prospective linkage with health and correctional records. The findings will inform transitional care for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people transitioning from prison to the community, and inform the current debate regarding the consequences of excluding prisoners from Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidies.</p>			

Project Title	A review of the epidemiology, management and mortality of patients with penile cancer in Western Australia.		
Principal Investigator	Professor Dickon Hayne		
Institution	Fiona Stanley Hospital		
Start Date	30 June 2018	Finish Date	31 December 2019
<p>This study will review how patients diagnosed with penile cancer in Western Australia from 1992 to 2017 have been treated and managed. The aim of this project is to assess short, intermediate and long-term survival outcomes and to determine whether patients diagnosed with penile cancer in Western Australia are being treated in accordance with international standards and evidence-based care.</p>			

Project Title	Impact of rapid access to cardiology determined multi-modality testing among individuals presenting with new onset chest pain: improving quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness at Royal Perth Hospital: The RADICAL project.		
Principal Investigator	Dr Jon Spiro		
Institution	Royal Perth Hospital		
Start Date	11 April 2018	Finish Date	21 December 2020
<p>This study will focus on patients who present with new onset chest pain suggestive of angina, who are referred to the rapid access chest pain clinic (RACPC) at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The proposed RACPC will offer a state-of-the-art service to patients and may help to reduce unnecessary and costly presentations to emergency departments and hospital admissions.</p> <p>This study will involve testing which method of assessment is the most efficient and least costly in a dedicated clinical setting. In addition, linkage of clinical data to emergency department, inpatient admissions and death data via the Western Australian Data Linkage System will enable an assessment of the clinical outcome of patients treated within the RACPC.</p>			

Project Title	Prospective study of adverse pregnancy outcomes from fetotoxic agents in the public water supply		
Principal Investigator	Professor Angus Cook		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	31 May 2018	Finish Date	1 December 2020
<p>Disinfection of public water supplies is important for the protection of public health. However a major drawback of this treatment process is the production of disinfection by-products (DBPs), of which some are thought to be potentially harmful to the developing fetus. A group of chemicals known as trihalomethanes (THMs) are one of the most common by-products. Water supplies in Perth are known to contain relatively high levels.</p> <p>This study aims to assess whether there is an association between THM exposure (via the public water supply) in pregnant women and adverse pregnancy outcomes in Perth.</p>			

Project Title	Heritable and environmental determinants of hospitalisation for common childhood illnesses - Study 2: association between monozygotic and dizygotic twins, their sibs and their parents in hospital admissions.		
Principal Investigator	Professor Nick De Klerk		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Start Date	14 May 2018	Finish Date	23 April 2021
<p>Infectious diseases are the leading cause of childhood death and health service use worldwide. Why some children develop more severe infection is largely unknown. The relative contribution of genetic and environmental factors to common childhood infections severe enough to require hospitalisation is largely unexplored and is the overall aim of this project. The first study on associations between non-twin brothers and sisters is currently being analysed. The second distinct and separate part of this study, will examine these same questions in twin families.</p>			

Project Title	The types and causes of anticoagulant-related medication incidents across hospitals in Western Australia.		
Principal Investigator	Dr Audrey Koay		
Institution	Department of Health		
Start Date	17 May 2018	Finish Date	17 May 2020
<p>A report by the Quality Improvement and Change Management (QICM) unit on statewide anticoagulant incident data was developed in response to a request from the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). Reports on specific high risk medication incidents have been previously developed by QICM for use by Health Service Providers in identifying strategies to reduce the risk of medication errors. These reviews are part of 'business as usual' for the Medication Safety Portfolio in QICM.</p> <p>During the review of the requested data for the ACSQHC, it was identified that the findings within the report were novel and of importance due to the lack of published data available in Australia on incidents related to anticoagulants and more specifically the direct oral anticoagulants. This project will investigate the findings of the report requested from the ACSQHC.</p>			

Project Title	Cost effectiveness of extending the Phase 3 community pulmonary rehabilitation program beyond the recommended 10 weeks		
Principal Investigator	Dr Derrick Lopez		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	2 July 2018	Finish Date	2 July 2021
<p>Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) is an evidence-based intervention recommended for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the second leading cause of avoidable hospitalisation in Australia. PR is offered in phases and improves quality of life and reduces healthcare utilisation. As any benefit from Phase 2 PR diminishes after completion, participants are invited to continue attending a weekly Phase 3 maintenance class for 10 weeks, with a further 10 months if suitable. The 2017 Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinical Practice Guidelines calls for further research to clarify the benefits of Phase 3 PR. It is hypothesised that extending Phase 3 PR beyond 10 weeks is cost-effective to WA Health.</p>			

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