



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

# Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

## **Project Summaries for Approved Proposals**

July to September 2018 Quarter

## Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – July to September 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 of projects approved in the July to September 2018 quarter.

<b>Project Title</b>	Establishment of the Social Investment Data Resource (SIDR) to support a social investment approach for Target 120 and future projects.		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Mr Kurt Sibma		
<b>Institution</b>	The Department of Treasury		
<b>Start Date</b>	11 July 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 June 2022
<p>The Social Investment Data Resource (SIDR) will be a linked, de-identified human services dataset created to inform and evaluate the Target 120 (T120) program. T120 is a key election commitment of the McGowan Labor Government, and aims to deliver an intervention program for high risk and recidivist juvenile offenders and their families. The T120 program will support those young offenders who are at risk of continued contact with the justice system. T120 services will be delivered by the Department of Communities, while technical and analytical support will be provided by the Department of Treasury. Funding of \$20.5 million over four years for the T120 program was approved at the 2018-19 State Budget.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Effect of an integrated end of life primary care service on hospital use: A pilot trial		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Ms Joanna Smith		
<b>Institution</b>	Silver Chain Group		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 July 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 September 2019
<p>Integrum Aged care + is a new service developed by Silver Chain and Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to trial an alternative, holistic primary care model specifically aimed at supporting people in their last few years of life to stay at home. This service is designed for individuals who are over 65, live in the community, reside in metropolitan Perth, have two or more chronic diseases and have been admitted to hospital in the previous 12 months. Differences in the health service use and health service use costs of the participants in the trial will be compared to that of a historical comparison group who did not receive the service.</p> <p>This is a pragmatic evaluation to ascertain the potential of the service that impacts on health service use of the participants while providing a positive patient experience in the last years of life. Results of the pragmatic evaluation will be used to provide an indication of the ability of the service to impact hospital utilisation in the last 3 years of life.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Reproductive Outcomes for Women following a first cancer diagnosis: a Linkage Study		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Angela Ives		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 September 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2018
<p>Improvements in cancer diagnosis and treatment, in children, adolescent and young adults have led to significant improvements in survival. While cancer can negatively impact fertility, many female survivors are now able to conceive post treatment. There may, however, be greater risks of obstetric complications for these women. This study will compare pregnancies, and their outcomes, in women previously diagnosed and treated with their first cancer and compare first birth outcomes with those women without history of cancer in WA. The results will be used to better inform women and clinicians regarding the potential risks and benefits of pregnancy and birth outcomes for both mother and child.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Coordination of Health Care Study (Western Australia application)		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Lynelle Moon		
<b>Institution</b>	The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare		
<b>Start Date</b>	11 July 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 April 2027
<p>The purpose of the Coordination of Health Care Study (the Study) is to provide information to the primary health care sector, including Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to support their efforts to improve the patients' experiences with care in their local community. The results will identify patients' experiences, with accessibility, person centred care and coordination and continuity across multiple service providers, including GPs, allied health, specialists, medications, hospitals and Emergency Departments (ED).</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	The safety of methoxyflurane for emergency pain relief administered by ambulance services in Western Australia		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr David Preen		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	07 January 2019	<b>Finish Date</b>	04 January 2021
<p>Methoxyflurane is commonly used in Australia by emergency services (such as Ambulance transport) for pain relief. While methoxyflurane has been shown to be highly effective as an analgesic, it is not commonly used worldwide due to potential safety concerns. These safety concerns have arisen from the historical use of methoxyflurane at high doses as an anesthetic. However, little empirical evidence exists as to the long-term safety of this medicine when administered in low doses for pain relief. The aim of this study is to examine the safety of methoxyflurane in patients treated by ambulance services between 1990 and 2016 in Western Australia (WA). Safety will be assessed by examining the rates of emergency department (ED) attendances, hospital admissions and death in patients following treatment with methoxyflurane with comparison to a cohort of non-treated matched patients.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Reducing the burden of dialysis catheter complications - a national approach		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Sradha Kotwal		
<b>Institution</b>	The George Institute for Global Health		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 October 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 September 2023
<p>The REDUCCTION Project is an evidence implementation study which monitors central venous dialysis catheter exposure and complications across Australia. The project involves a collaborative team of 37 Australian Renal units, along with VIC and QLD state government bodies, Kidney Health Australia (KHA), Kidney Health Australia – Caring for Australasians with Renal Impairment (KHA-CARI) and the Australian New Zealand Dialysis and Transplantation Registry (ANZDATA).</p> <p>Within participating sites, data is collected for all patients over 18 years of age who receive a vascular access catheter under the care of the participating Renal unit. Data collection is for the lifespan of the catheter (from insertion date to removal date), and includes details of all interventions and infectious events that are related to the catheter.</p> <p>The estimated sample size per site is 100 catheter entries per year, over a 3.5 year study duration. After a period of baseline data collection, an evidence-based intervention will be implemented across all sites, which incorporates multiple components of care throughout dialysis catheter use. Using a stepped wedge cluster design, the complete suite of interventions will be implemented at a unit level, with the timing of the introduction of the study intervention determined through a randomization schema. The REDUCCTION project will analyse the effect of this intervention upon the primary outcome of the rate of dialysis catheter associated bacteraemia.</p> <p>While this study will be instrumental in assessing, and streamlining the processes of catheter care across Australia, the study team would also like to utilize the REDUCCTION patient cohort to explore the potential long term outcomes of the project, and the patient population it includes. A key component of the project is estimating the cost of dialysis access catheters to the health system and understanding the economic impact of these catheters. Data linkage</p>			

will be used to measure the cost per hospitalization of dialysis access catheters as well as to understand the long-term complications such as endocarditis that may result from these catheters.

<b>Project Title</b>	Evaluation of the Early Psychosis Youth Services (EPYS) program: ecological analysis of health service utilisation		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Associate Professor Laurent Billot		
<b>Institution</b>	The George Institute for Global Health		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 October 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2018

The EPYS program is the delivery of the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) model through the headspace centre network. It aims to reduce the incidence and severity of psychosis within the community in young adults with, or at risk of, first episode psychosis. One of the key research questions is whether the EPYS program reduces health service utilisation. To answer that question, we are aiming to compare rates of hospitalisations and Emergency Department presentations between geographical areas that include EPYS and those that either include non-EPYS state Ultra High Risk/First Episode Psychosis (UHR/FEP) services or no specific services.

<b>Project Title</b>	Is highly-sensitive troponin testing advancing clinical practice, improving outcomes and cost-effective in the investigation and management of chest pain in the Emergency Department? (Short Title: The TropED Study)		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Associate Professor Tom Briffa		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	08 August 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 May 2021

Expensive next generation blood tests offer the promise of more efficient detection of heart muscle damage in people with chest pain presenting to the Emergency Department. We aim to evaluate the treatment, management, cost and outcome at one year before and after these new blood tests were introduced in a national multi-hospital study.

<b>Project Title</b>	Histological Predictors of Squamous Cell Carcinoma Progression in High-Risk Renal Transplant Patients		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Nathan Harvey		
<b>Institution</b>	PathWest Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 September 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	01 September 2020
<p>The aim of this project is to determine which histological features in cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)'s from renal transplant patients correlate best with the clinical outcome of the tumour. We will identify cases of cutaneous SCC excised from renal transplant patients from the PathWest archives. The histological sections from these cases will be re-assessed for a number of histological features, which will be correlated with follow up information regarding the tumours from the patient case notes. Ultimately, the goal of this project will be to provide clinicians with data regarding which histological parameters should be considered when making clinical decisions regarding the treatment of SCC in this group of high-risk patients.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Kimberley Suicide and Self-Harm Data Project		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor David Lawrence		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	20 September 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2018
<p>This project aims to collate all existing suicide and self-harm data for the Kimberley region in order to provide an historical analysis of the trends in the region. A report will be prepared profiling self-harm, suicide attempts and completed suicides in the Kimberley region. This will include a comparison of rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people both regionally and with the rest of Western Australia, an examination of risk factors in relation to risk profiles, and recommendations for improving and standardising the collection of self-harm and suicide data in the Kimberley region in order to support ongoing suicide prevention strategies.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	Rare cancers in Western Australia: Incidence and survival		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Gemma Bilkey		
<b>Institution</b>	The Department of Health WA		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 October 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2019
<p>This research aims to inform government and decision-makers to better understand the impact of rare cancers on the community in order to inform health service design and delivery.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	SAFety, Effectiveness of care and Resource Use among Australian Hospitals		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Isuru Ranasinghe		
<b>Institution</b>	The Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Research & University of Adelaide		
<b>Start Date</b>	01 October 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	01 February 2030
<p>The SAFety, Effectiveness of Care, and Resource Use among Australian Hospitals (SAFER Hospitals) study is a multidisciplinary research collaboration to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of hospital care, and the impact on cost and resource utilisation in Australian hospitals.</p> <p>The goal of this study is to estimate the hospital-wide incidence of serious adverse events, unplanned readmissions, mortality and costs following hospital care using existing linked data and advanced statistical and computational methods. It seeks to assess the variation in these outcomes among hospitals and estimate the proportion of outcomes that may be preventable.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	The types and causes of opioid-related medication incidents across hospitals in Western Australia		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Anastasia Phillips		
<b>Institution</b>	The Department of Health WA		
<b>Start Date</b>	17 September 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	17 August 2020
<p>This project aims to identify the number and types of medication incidents related to opioid medications that occur in WA hospitals and to develop ways to reduce the risk of further incidents.</p> <p>This study will use information from an existing data collection which is maintained by Patient Safety and Clinical Quality, called Datix CIMS. Datix CIMS is the system that WA health uses to report and manage clinical incidents that occur in public hospitals and health services.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	An assessment of late night alcohol restrictions in Queensland		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor Peter Miller		
<b>Institution</b>	Deakin University		
<b>Start Date</b>	19 September 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 October 2018
<p>The QUANTEM project aims to assess the impact of the state wide Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Policy in Queensland, implemented in July 2016. A component of this project is the examination of archival data sources from Queensland, including police data, ambulance attendance data, hospital admissions data, and emergency department data. In order to accurately assess trends within Queensland, a comparison of Queensland administrative data (state wide and for specific precincts) to other Australian states will be undertaken. Interstate comparison sites have been primarily selected based on the size of their night-time economies, and their resident population aged 18-30.</p>			

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