



National Institute of Clinical Studies

NICS works to improve health care by helping translate the findings of health and medical research into clinical practice

Keeping pace with the rapid increase of knowledge in health care is a constant challenge. In this environment, overcoming barriers to access and use of new knowledge is critical to delivering good health care.

As part of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by helping translate the findings of health and medical research into clinical practice. NICS is recognised both locally and internationally for our expertise in the science of evidence implementation. Our work takes place within four key program areas; Effective Practice, Guidelines Research, Leadership and Research Implementation.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE PROGRAM

The NICS Effective Practice program develops, tests and trials implementation methods that support the transfer of research knowledge across a range of clinical areas. Its key activities include:

NICS Emergency Care Community of Practice (EC CoP)

The EC CoP Pain Management initiative will continue to 2010 and aims to implement evidence-based guidelines to improve the assessment and management of pain in emergency departments. EC CoP members are linked directly to emergency care clinical guidelines from Australia and overseas through the emergency care guidelines portal and to one another through the EC CoP blog.

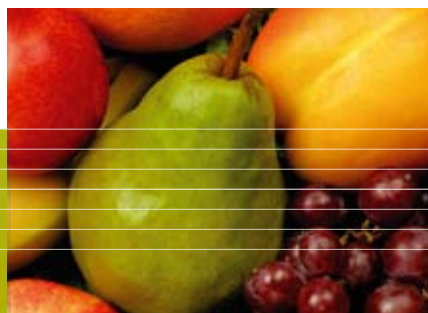
The National Organ Donation Collaborative (NODC)

Funded by the Australian Government, the NODC brings together teams of health professionals from 26 hospitals across Australia. The teams identify, use and spread best practice models for achieving high rates in both organ donation and transplantation. The NODC supports teams through learning sessions, a web portal, teleconferences, shared resources, and a newsletter.

G-I-N Virtual Emergency Care Community

This virtual community aims to improve the uptake of guidelines in emergency care internationally. It was developed with the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) in 2007.

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GUIDELINES RESEARCH PROGRAM

The NICS Guidelines Research program works to improve the quality of clinical practice guidelines as part of an NHMRC-wide strategy to increase access to guidelines and help promote effective uptake of evidence into practice. Its key activities include:

Original Research

This program is undertaking literature reviews on selected topics and an audit of current Australian guidelines. Its aim is to identify characteristics which foster implementation and lead to improvements in the quality and credibility of clinical practice guidelines.

Australian Guidelines Portal

This portal will provide a web-based 'one stop shop' for clinicians, policy makers and consumers to access guidelines.

Australian Guidelines in Development Register

This project will improve communication between guideline developers by enabling registration of proposals or guidelines in development on an index of national and state and territory guideline topics.

Australian Satellite of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

Funded by the Australian Government, the Australian EPOC Satellite is based at NICS. It assists evidence-based policy-making by supporting, promoting and helping to implement Cochrane systematic reviews of interventions designed to improve health care practice and the delivery of effective health services.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The NICS Leadership program works to build capacity in evidence implementation. Its key activities include:

NICS Fellowships

NICS Fellows represent a broad range of health care disciplines and undertake a two year implementation project aimed at closing a gap between evidence and practice in their specific health care setting. NICS Fellows benefit from networking opportunities, masterclasses and workshops with leaders in implementation science, and mentoring by senior figures in Australian health care. Co-sponsors include state government health departments, professional colleges, foundations, and condition-specific groups who help offer these Fellowships to address important evidence-practice gaps and support future health care leaders.

NICS Scholarships

We offer PhD Scholarships where we identify opportunities within a NICS program of work for research and development of new knowledge in implementation science.

Visiting Experts

As part of our commitment to share knowledge, each year we bring international leaders in evidence implementation to Australia for national lectures and workshops.

Tools and resources

Increasingly clinicians, decision makers, funders and health service managers are looking to NICS for practical support in implementing evidence in a variety of settings. NICS will therefore continue to develop resources and tools that can be used across the health sector including literature reviews, implementation guides, targeted newsletters and web portals and sites such as the highly successful www.fightflu.gov.au website and public health 'Fight Flu' campaign.

RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The NICS Research Implementation program works to implement and evaluate national programs for evidence translation. Its key activities include:

Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) prevention

This initiative has trained and supported multidisciplinary hospital teams to improve the use of VTE prophylaxis in hospitalised patients. The program has developed implementation tools and resources, including material for consumers and was extended to private hospitals during 2008-2009 with funding from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

ADAPTE

ADAPTE is a new international approach to guideline development which aims to produce guidelines more efficiently and systematically through local adaptation of existing high quality international guidelines. NICS is currently using this methodology to develop an NHMRC guideline on the prevention of VTE in Australian hospital settings.

Heart failure management

This is a joint initiative with the National Prescribing Service (NPS) and the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NHFA) aimed at improving the diagnosis and management of heart failure in primary care settings.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information about NICS programs of work, please go to www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics.

NHMRC is Australia's leading funding body for health and medical research. It also provides the government, health professionals and the community with expert and independent advice on a range of issues that directly affect the health and well being of all people in Australia.

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