



August 2008 Newsletter

News

UPDATE - National Emergency Care Pain Management Initiative

25 emergency departments were represented at our second two day workshop in Brisbane on August 11 and 12. The feedback received was incredibly positive, with attendees enjoying getting together and hearing about what others have experienced in the first six weeks of the initiative. Workshop topics covered a series of case studies from Dr Marten Howes (Bunbury Hospital Emergency Department), tailoring interventions to local ED barriers and enablers (Sue Huckson), audit and feedback (Kerri Holzhauser), communication (Dr Jillian Clare), and of course there was plenty of networking. NICS has also been planning for the commencement of another 27 emergency departments to start the initiative in early 2009. The response to this important initiative and need has been a great testimony to the emergency field in striving to provide best practice care.

Emergency Care Blog News

Follow the link below and have a look at recent ED clinical discussions, research and resources. You don't have to sign up or log in to view documents. If you want to join in and start a discussion, it is quick and easy to login. Get feedback on local quality projects or research. There is some great work happening out there, let others know of your latest achievements or ask for ideas when you hit a wall. Go to: www.emergencycare.nhmrc.gov.au/blog.

Guideline of the month

This month's guideline is the New Zealand Guideline Group's [The Assessment and Management of People at Risk of Suicide](#) (2007). This guideline has been developed for the acute care setting, with a specific emergency department chapter, including a section on triage and general assessment.

These guidelines are accompanied by a [summary guide](#), a [rapid assessment guide](#) and a [treatment algorithm](#). Please see the Emergency Care Guideline Portal for more guidelines on this, and many other emergency care topics - www.emergencycare.nhmrc.gov.au/portal

Articles of interest

Hypertonic saline use in the emergency department. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*. August 2008. Vol 20 Issue 4, pp. 294 – 305 [Link to abstract](#)

Triaging suicidal patients: Sifting through the evidence. *International Emergency Nursing*. 2008 Jul;16(3). pp.165-74. [Link to abstract](#)

Increasing the profile of the care of the older person in the ED: A contemporary nursing challenge. *International Emergency Nursing*. 2008 July. 16(3). pp.152-158. [Link to abstract](#)

Observational pain assessment versus self-report in paediatric triage. *Emergency Medicine Journal*. Sept 2008;25. pp. 552-555 [Link to full paper](#)

Audit of the safety and effectiveness of ketamine for procedural sedation in the emergency department. *Emergency Medicine Journal* 2008; 25: 579-582. [Link to full paper](#)

Prehospital initiation of tirofiban in patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction undergoing primary angioplasty (On-TIME 2): a multicentre, double-blind, randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet*. Aug16, 2008; pp. 372:537-546 [Link to abstract](#)

Talk to the experts

Join us for our September teleconference where we will be discussing the EDs important role in the Organ Donation process.

Teleconference details:

Guest speaker: Treena Quarin & Liz Treasure
Topic: Organ donation in the ED
Date: Tuesday September 30
Time: 1.30pm - 2.30pm AEST
Phone: 1800 200 232 and enter PIN: 011363 at the prompt.

Dr Treena Quarin (ED physician) and Liz Treasure (Organ and Tissue Donation Clinical Nurse Consultant) are both from the Royal Melbourne Hospital (VIC) and have been involved in the National Organ Donation Collaborative, now being managed through NICS. Liz and Treena will discuss the implementation of clinical triggers in the emergency department and their role to increase awareness in identifying potential donors.

RELATED PAPERS:

The organ donor crisis: the missed organ donor potential from the accident and emergency departments. Aubrey P, Arber S, Tyler M. *Transplant Proceedings*. 2008. May;40(4):1008-11 [Link to abstract](#)

Potential organ donors referred to Ontario neurosurgical centres. Tenn-Lyn NA, Doig CJ, Shemie SD, Teitelbaum J, Cass DE. *Can J Anaesth*. 2006 Jul;53(7):732-6. [Link to full paper](#)

NICS Fellowships

The NHMRC is inviting applications for the 2009 NICS Fellowships. [Go to the NICS website for more info.](#)

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