



Sharing ideas and expertise to improve practice together

Emergency Care Community of Practice Newsletter

Emergency Care: Closing Gaps Grants - Closing date 20th February 2006

Four grants of \$7,500 are being offered for projects that aim to improve the use of evidence in emergency medicine. A teleconference has been scheduled for the 1st February for those wanting more information. Details for the teleconference and application can be found on the NICSL website: www.nicsl.com.au (under Sponsorships & Grants).

Story for improvement – Sensible Test Ordering Practice, the STOP project

Read about the STOP project submitted by Dr Marian Lee, Emergency Medicine Consultant, Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW. The Sensible Test Ordering Practice (STOP) was an initiative that aimed to reduce excessive test ordering in the emergency department. Marian shares the barriers they faced and the issues related to the sustainability of the project. The results of the project and poster are available (PDF document) from the EC CoP web pages at www.nicsl.com.au (under Stories of Improvement).

EC CoP evaluation update

An overview of the interim evaluation report is available on the [EC CoP web page](#). The online survey identified that changes in practice are being attributed to both the EC CoP and the Mental Health Emergency Care Interface project. There is an average of 1800 hits per month to the webpage. EC CoP was described as 'providing a challenging commentary on our practice' by one of the survey respondents.

Websites and articles of interest:

Recently published trauma papers that address what is mandatory in the evaluation of trauma patients

- Old Fashion Clinical Judgment in the Era of Protocols: Is Mandatory Chest X-Ray Necessary in Injured Patients? *Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection & Critical Care*. 59(2):324-332, August 2005. ([link to abstract](#))
- Reasons to Omit Digital Rectal Exam in Trauma Patients: No Fingers, No Rectum, No Useful Additional Information. *Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection & Critical Care*. 59(6):1314-1319, December 2005. ([link to abstract](#))

Recently published Australian studies

- Diagnostic use of C-reactive protein in bacteraemic emergency department patients. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*. Volume 17(4): 371-5, August 2005. ([link to abstract](#))
- Preprocedural Fasting State and Adverse Events in Children Receiving Nitrous Oxide for Procedural Sedation and Analgesia. *Pediatric Emergency Care*. 21(11):736-43, November 2005 ([link to abstract](#))

[Conference Abstracts](#) - Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACAP) National Conference, October 2005

This month we also feature more articles recommended by Kerri Holzhauser, the Nurse Researcher, Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).

- 'Maintaining the chain of custody: evidence handling in forensic-cases'. *AORN* 2003;78(4):563-9. ([link to abstract](#))
- 'Towards a Safer Culture: clinical pathways in acute coronary syndromes and stroke'. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2004;180(10 Suppl.):S92-S96. ([link to full text](#))
- 'Ethics and SARS: lessons from Toronto'. *British Medical Journal* 2003;327(7427):1342-4. ([link to full text](#))
- 'Use and toxicity of complementary and alternative medicines among emergency department patients'. *Emergency Medicine Australasia* 2004;16(5-6):400-6. ([link to abstract](#))
- 'Read, think, do!: a method for fitting research evidence into practice'. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2005;50(1):20-6. ([link to abstract](#))



For more information, links and resources please visit the [Emergency Care Community of Practice webpage](#)