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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Closing evidence-practice gaps in emergency care

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has published the latest brochures in its series, **Emergency Care Evidence in Practice**. The brochures were developed for emergency care clinicians by the NHMRC's National Institute of Clinical Studies Emergency Care Community of Practice. They highlight evidence-practice gaps of particular relevance within Australian emergency departments.

Three new topics have been addressed in this second release of the series:

- **Lumbar imaging in acute non-specific low back pain**
- **Pain medication for acute abdominal pain**, and
- **Rate or rhythm control for recurrent atrial fibrillation.**

Endorsed by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia, and the Australian College of Emergency Nursing, each brochure highlights the importance of the topic, summarises the best available evidence, and outlines current practice and implications for emergency care practice.

"Publication of these brochures reflects the continuing and close collaboration that exists between NHMRC-NICS and expert emergency clinicians," said Professor Warwick Anderson, the NHMRC's Chief Executive Officer. "By identifying specific areas of variation in practice where evidence is available to inform best practice, we hope to raise awareness of these particular evidence-practice gaps and encourage evidence-based change that will improve the quality of care for people presenting to emergency departments."

The brochures can be downloaded from the NHMRC-NICS website: www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics.

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Notes for editors

The first three brochures in the **Evidence in Practice** series, which were published in 2006, addressed the use of ipratropium bromide for acute asthma; cervical spine x-rays in trauma; and the management of acute migraine.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. As part of the NHMRC, the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by getting the best available evidence from health and medical research into everyday practice.

NICS supports an Australia-wide Emergency Care Community of Practice for clinicians, health managers and health care professionals involved in the delivery of emergency care, to enable them to share ideas, knowledge and expertise to help close evidence-practice gaps and improve patient care.