



NICS FELLOW 2004-2007

Dr Kevan Polkinghorne

Nephrologist,
*Department of Nephrology,
Monash Medical Centre, VIC*



Implementation Project:

Improving haemodialysis with appropriate vascular access

Dr Polkinghorne's project aimed to increase the number of kidney failure patients commencing dialysis with the best possible vascular access, the arteriovenous fistula. The project examined the factors that prevent timely surgical creation of a fistula (a method of accessing the blood circulation by surgically connecting a vein in the arm to an artery) and developed targeted interventions to implement best evidence-based practice.

Funding Partner:

Dr Kevan Polkinghorne's Fellowship is supported by the National Institute of Clinical Studies.

Project Mentor:

Professor Peter Kerr

Director, Department of Nephrology,
Monash Medical Centre, VIC

NICS Mentor:

Mr Robert Wells

Director, Policy and Planning
(Health), Australian National
University, ACT

Key Publications:

Irving MJ, Craig JC, Gallagher M, McDonald S, Polkinghorne KR, Walker RG, et al. Implementing iron management clinical practice guidelines in patients with chronic kidney disease having dialysis. *Med J Aust.* 2006 Sep 18;185(6):310-4.
Polkinghorne K. Commencing haemodialysis with appropriate vascular access. *Evidence-Practice Gaps Report, Volume 2; 2005.*

Key Presentations:

Irving M, Craig J, Gallagher M, McDonald S, Polkinghorne K, Walker R, et al. Implementation of clinical practice guidelines: Overcoming barriers to implementation of iron management guidelines in chronic kidney disease patients on dialysis [poster]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.
Irving M, Craig J, Gallagher M, McDonald S, Polkinghorne K, Walker R, et al. Barriers to implementation of guidelines in dialysis units in Australia: A review of iron management practices. 3rd G-I-N Conference. Lyon, France; 2005.

The National Institute
of Clinical Studies (NICS)

Polkinghorne K, Saunder A, Kerr P. What do nephrologists and surgeons regard as important factors in determining successful arteriovenous fistula placement? American Society of Nephrology Renal Week 2005. Philadelphia, USA; 2005.