



## NICS FELLOW 2004-2007

### Associate Professor Steven Doherty

Deputy Director,  
*Rural Clinical School,*  
*University of Newcastle, NSW*

Emergency Physician,  
*Tamworth Base Hospital, NSW*



*The National Institute  
of Clinical Studies (NICS)*

#### Implementation Project:

*Increasing the uptake of guidelines in rural emergency departments*

This project aimed to implement evidence-based guidelines on asthma and paediatric emergency conditions throughout hospitals in the New England region, NSW. Although various evidence-based clinical practice guidelines had been disseminated to emergency departments, the use of the guidelines in day-to-day clinical practice was low.

Associate Professor Doherty developed a tailored implementation plan including guideline formatting, education, audit and feedback, reminders and use of opinion leaders. The evidence-based implementation was successful in improving the use of guidelines in emergency care, with immediate positive changes in clinical behaviour, and sustained gains at 12 months.

#### Funding Partner:

Associate Professor Doherty's Fellowship is supported by the National Institute of Clinical Studies.

#### Project Mentor:

**Professor Peter Jones**

Professor of Rural Health, University  
Department of Rural Health, University  
of Newcastle, NSW

#### NICS Mentor:

**Dr Greg Stewart**

Director of Population Health,  
Planning and Performance, Sydney  
South West Area Health Service,  
NSW

#### Awards:

Winner Appropriateness category NSW Baxter Awards 2005

Finalist Appropriateness category NSW Baxter Awards 2005

Winner Education category Hunter New England Health Quality Awards 2005.

### Key Publications:

Doherty S, Jones PD, Ryan NJV, Treeve V. Evidence-based implementation of adult asthma guidelines in the emergency department: A controlled trial. *Emerg Med Australas*. 2007(19):31-8

Doherty S. Evidence-based implementation of evidence-based guidelines. *Int J Health Care Qual Assur Inc Leadersh Health Serv*. 2006;19(1):32-41.

Doherty S, Jones PD. Use of an 'evidence-based implementation' strategy to implement evidence-based care of asthma into rural district hospital emergency departments. *Rural Remote Health*. 2006 Jan-Mar;6(1):529.

Doherty S. Evidence-based medicine: arguments for and against. *Emerg Med Australas*. 2005 Aug;17(4):307-13.

Doherty S. History of evidence-based medicine. Oranges, chloride of lime and leeches: barriers to teaching old dogs new tricks. *Emerg Med Australas*. 2005 Aug;17(4):314-21.

### Key Presentations:

Doherty S. "Overcoming the Gap" in Rural Health. Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting. Sydney; 2006.

Doherty S. Barriers and enablers in the emergency department [presentation]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Doherty S. Using evidence-based strategies to implement guidelines [workshop]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Doherty S. Barriers and enablers in the emergency department [poster]. National Institute of Clinical Studies Symposium - Using Evidence: Using Guidelines. Melbourne; 2006.

Doherty S. An 'evidence-based implementation strategy' that improves the evidence-based care of paediatric asthma in a rural emergency department. RACP Congress. Cairns; 2006.

Doherty S. Evidence-based implementation of evidence-based guidelines (workshop). Healthcare without walls: delivering the best care in the best place. Adelaide; 2006.

Doherty S. Implementation of National Asthma Council guideline for rural emergency departments. Rural Critical Care Conference. Tamworth, NSW; 2005.

Doherty S. Development of an evidence-based implementation for rural emergency departments. Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) National Conference, 'Closing the Know-Do Gap'. Sydney; 2005.

Doherty S. Results of evidence-based implementation programs across a spectrum of rural hospitals. ACEM Winter Symposium. Queenstown; 2005.

Doherty S. Clinical guidelines in the ED - An evidence-based implementation. ACEM Winter Symposium. Queenstown; 2005.

Doherty S. Results of evidence-based implementation programs across a spectrum of rural hospitals. Rural Health Conference. Tamworth; 2005.