



NICS-RANZCR FELLOW 2006 - 2008

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Implementation Project:

Improving the uptake of imaging guidelines in the Emergency Department

With an increasing number of emergency department attendances and the resultant radiology referrals, Dr Bessen's project is intended to improve the effectiveness of care by ensuring that imaging use is appropriate and based on best available evidence.

Dr Bessen is implementing the Ottawa Ankle Rules within the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Noarlunga Health Service's emergency departments. The objective is to design and implement interventions that effect a change in the core process of test ordering and are capable of affecting rotating and shift work staff who may be unfamiliar with the Ottawa Ankle Rules. Lessons learnt will be useful for implementation of future evidence-based imaging protocols in the emergency department.

Implementation Project Progress Report, October 2007:

Results of 12 months of project data collection have been fed back to emergency department (ED) staff at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), and data collection and analysis is ongoing. There has been improved documentation of the Ottawa Ankle Rules in assessment of patients who present with acute blunt ankle trauma, consistent high usage of a new problem specific x-ray request form, and persistent downward trend in the number of x-rays ordered in eligible ankle presentations to ED. Dr Bessen is now investigating options for sustainability of the project at the RAH.

Dr Bessen has recently rolled out the project at a second site, the Noarlunga Health Service (NHS), using a similar implementation process. Data collection and analysis are in the early stages.

Funding Partner:

Dr Bessen's fellowship is supported by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).

The RANZCR is the leading professional organisation for the practice of Radiology and Medical Imaging (Diagnostic and Interventional) and Radiation Oncology in Australia and New Zealand.

The National Institute
of Clinical Studies (NICS)



Project Mentor:

Ms Virginia Deegan

General Manager, Royal Adelaide
Hospital, SA

NICS Mentor:

Professor Judith Dwyer

Director, Health Services
Management Development Unit,
Flinders University, SA

Key Presentations:

Bessen T. NICS-RANZCR Fellowships. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging Program: 2nd Annual QUDI Research Seminar. Melbourne; 2007.

Bessen T. NICS-RANZCR Fellowship. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists SA Branch Monthly Scientific Meeting. Adelaide; 2007.

Bessen T. Improving the uptake of imaging guidelines in the emergency department. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging Program: Inaugural Research Seminar. Sydney; 2006.

Bessen T. Improving the uptake of imaging guidelines in the Emergency Department. Emergency Care Community of Practice Teleconference. 2007

Goergen S, Bessen T. "Journal Club with a Difference: What you need to know when you read diagnostic imaging papers". Workshop at RANZCR ASM, Melbourne; 2007.