



Welcome to the autumn edition of the NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability (PCHSS) newsletter.

The Partnership Centre is a \$10.75M, five-year collaboration involving 17 lead investigators, 20 expert advisors and over 40 system implementation partners from around Australia. Our vision is that our research findings significantly influence the development of a resilient health care system that is affordable, cost-effective and delivers improved health outcomes for all Australians. We delighted to bring you the latest news about PCHSS activities.

Selected new publications

Lind K, et al. (2019) [Anti-dementia medication use by aged care residents with dementia](#). *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*.1-12.

Pathirana T, et al. (2019) [Lifetime risk of prostate cancer overdiagnosis in Australia: quantifying the risk of overdiagnosis](#)

[associated with prostate cancer screening in Australia using a novel lifetime risk approach](#). *BMJ Open* 10;9(3):e022457.

Jessup RL, et al. (2019) [Alternative service models for delivery of healthcare services in high-income countries: a scoping review of systematic reviews \(protocol\)](#). *BMJ Open* 9:1, e024385.

Lo K, Karnon J (2019) [In-DEPth framework: evidence informed, co-creation framework for the design, evaluation and procurement of health programs](#). *BMJ Open* 9:e026482.

Selected media hits and opinion pieces

[The future of Australia's doctors](#) (Scott T, *Pursuit*, 19 May 2019)

[The scourge of pressure injuries among Australians in aged care](#) (Westbrook J, *The Lighthouse*, 13 May 2019)

[New research examines how IT issues affect care, outcomes](#) (Coiera E, *HealthData Management*, 10 May 2019)

[Patient safety put at risk by negative workplace cultures](#) (Westbrook J, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 May 2019)

[ATC 2019: Time to rethink telehealth strategy and policy](#) (Gray L, *Pulse+IT*, 3 April 2019)

[The facts behind prostate cancer over-diagnosis](#) (Glasziou P, *Financial Review*, 11 March 2019) (You can listen to the ABC

The World Today interview on this topic as well, [Too many men given unnecessary treatment for prostate cancer](#))

[Lyrica, Pfizer, and how big pharma gets what it wants](#)

(Buchbinder R, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 March 2019)

Using Analytics, Technology and Shared Data

This Research Theme tackles the big questions in informatics and healthcare: including shared health information; big data; quality, effectiveness and cost of care; and the impact of telehealth. Professors [Johanna Westbrook](#), [Enrico Coiera](#) and [Len Gray](#) lead this research.

Highlights of our research include:

- More is not necessarily better, especially when it comes to alerts given by electronic medication management systems. New research shows that a more evidence-based approach, combining learnings from nudge theory and choice architecture, is needed for hospitals to be able to deliver decision-making support systems that will improve patient outcomes while reducing the burden on clinicians ([Westbrook J, Baysari M, 2019](#));
- New findings show that people with Alzheimer type dementia in Australian aged care facilities are not getting potentially beneficial antidementia medications for reasons that are not clinically relevant (such as the patient's primary language spoken, marital status and access). Change is needed from practitioners, who should

be offering residents the opportunity to trial these medications, and also from policy makers who should review the PBS subsidy guideline to ensure adequate access, ([Lind K, et al. 2019](#));

- Research to answer the questions, “What online primary care services are available in Australia?” and “When does telehealth reduce healthcare provision costs?” is nearing completion; and
- New research has begun in conjunction with eHealth NSW to evaluate the use of a digital global trigger tool in two NSW hospitals (Prince of Wales Hospital, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (LHD) and Blacktown Hospital, Western Sydney LHD).

Reducing Waste and Low-value Care

Approximately, 30% of health care is not beneficial to patients and not delivered within best practice guidelines. Worse yet, 10% of care is actually harmful to the patient. The teams, led by Professors [Paul Glasziou](#) and [Rachelle Buchbinder](#), are undertaking research into reducing waste from unnecessary or inappropriate care and delivering effective and appropriate services at a lower cost.

Work in this area includes:

- The revelation that over 40% of prostate cancer is overdiagnosed, leading to potential harms ([Pathirana T, et al. 2019](#)); and
- A commentary on the effects of changes in gestational diabetes guidelines ([Thomas R, et al. 2019](#)); as well as

- A core set of promising alternative models of service delivery that have been identified based on a review of more than 550 systematic reviews. Implementation planning for each model of service is currently underway. The protocol for this study is available ([Jessup RL, et al. 2019](#)) and the full review is under review.

Promong Better Value for the Health Dollar

This Research Theme, led by Professors [Tony Scott](#) and [Jon Karnon](#) and Dr Delia Hendrie, covers four major areas: 1) using financial incentives to promote value-based healthcare, 2) priority setting and decision-making in health care organisations, 3) the impact of markets, competition and choice in healthcare, and 4) the impact of a collaborative research program on cost savings and efficiencies in health care settings.

Highlights include:

- Two Primary Health Networks (PHN) trialling the in-DEPth ([Evidence-informed, co-creation framework for the Design, Evaluation and Procurement of Health services](#)) framework to develop evidence-informed procurement specifications for services for people with mental health and alcohol and other drug issues. For more information or to discuss potential collaborations, please get in touch with [Jon Karnon](#) at Flinders University; and
- A retrospective analysis of Western Australia's Department of Health's Research Translation Program grants, which will

inform reporting and facilitate future evaluation of grants, is progressing well; as well as

- Ongoing research on markets, competition and choice examining the impact of for-profit and not-for-profit providers on healthcare, including their role in aged care and primary care delivery.

Partnership Centre-wide Activities

The Partnership Centre Team has also been actively promoting health system sustainability research through meetings, workshops and conferences as well as published papers.

Here are a few highlights of what's been happening:

Farewell and welcome

- The PCHSS is saying farewell to Ms Jo Holt after two-and-a-half years of coordinating the Centre's activities. We wish her the very best for her retirement.
- We're also welcoming [Ms Britt Granath](#) as the new Institute Manager. Britt has been with the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute for 10 years, most recently in the role of Head, Governance and Policy.

Outreach

- Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite has spoken about health system sustainability at 13 national and international

meetings and submitted a manuscript about the 60:30:10 Challenge;

- Associate Professor Yvonne Zurynski spoke at the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC19) conference and was invited to join the Australian and New Zealand Consumer Experience and Leadership in Health Summit 2020 hosted by the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia

Workshops

- The annual PCHSSS Investigator Meeting was held at Macquarie University on 6 May. Over 50 investigators and system-based leads came together to discuss the successes of our first full year of operation and to plan for the coming year. Read about the meeting on the PCHSS [Events and Outcomes](#) webpage.

Research

- Two papers arising from the commissioned report for Research Australia entitled, "**Maximising MRFF Impact: Recommendations for Accelerating Research Translation and Implementation**" are in preparation now. These will detail the five key recommendations made based on our rapid review and include the FRIMA (Framework for Research Impact Measurement in Australia (FRIMA), which is designed for assessing the translational research impact of the MRFF.
- Preliminary results from the pilot study with Consumers Health Forum of Australia to gauge **consumer sentiment about the Australian Healthcare system** revealed two important issues around healthcare: access and out-of-

pocket costs. We are currently analysing these results to identify changes over time in consumer sentiment.

- Led by Dr [Trent Yeend](#) in conjunction with the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA), the project to analyse the pressures and challenges faced by Australia's public hospitals is progressing well with Ethics approvals granted by all jurisdictions. The project includes four studies of cost, financing, efficiency, and safety and quality. The primary goals of the research are to provide an improved evidence base for: 1) policy development and evaluation and 2) for system planning and management.
- Three literature reviews on the healthcare system are nearing completion.

Funding Success

- Congratulations to Yvonne Zurynski, Louise Ellis, Robyn Clay-Williams and Liliana Laranjo. The team was selected by the Sax Institute to conduct a rapid review on electronic medical records in mental health settings.

Contact

If you would like to partner with a stream of health system sustainability research, or you have an interest in any of the above areas of research, please [contact us](#).

Warm regards,

The Partnership Centre Team on behalf of:

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