



Clinical Reference Group Meeting 2/2015 Minutes

Thursday 12 November 2015

6:00 – 7:30pm

**The Annexe, School of Rural Health - Latrobe Valley
Latrobe Regional Hospital**

Attendees: Associate Professor Joseph Tam (Chair), Dr Jill Blackman (VC), Dr Matthew Carroll, Dr Martine Dennekamp, Susan Denny, Dr Fred Edwards, Dr Ryan Hoy (TC), Associate Professor Paul Lee (TC), Dr Jo McCubbin (TC), Angela Scully, Professor Andrew Tonkin (TC), Professor Judi Walker (VC), Dr Ian Webb, Associate Professor Alistair Wright

Apologies: Professor Michael Abramson

1. Welcome and introduction to new members

Dr Jo McCubbin was welcomed to the group as a paediatrician practicing in the Sale region. The group was introduced to two new project team members – Dr Jill Blackman (Senior Project Manager) and Susan Denny (Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator). It was noted that there is a need to include a general practitioner from Sale.

Action: Suggestions re Sale GP member to Dr Jill Blackman

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared by any members

3. Notes from first meeting held 19 March 2015

The minutes of the first meeting were accepted without change.

4. Hazelinks and Accessing GP data

Dr Martine Dennekamp gave an overview of the Hazelinks research stream which will include an identified data linkage with individual consent via the Adult Survey and a deidentified data extract. A copy of the slides is attached.

There was discussion regarding access to GP data including how the data were stored (with most clinics using either the *Best Practice* or *Medical Director* systems). It was agreed that it should be possible to access information on diagnosis and treatment as long as search strings are set up that can identify all common terms (as there may be variation in diagnostic labels). Further discussion is needed regarding whether the existing consent wording on the adult survey is sufficient to enable access to GP data etc.

Action: Dr Martine Dennekamp to contact GP members to further investigate the possibilities.

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5. Project Proposal – Best Practice Communication

Associate Professor Alistair Wright gave an overview of a proposed research project aimed at improving communication between different components of the health system – highlighting the thousands of letters produced each month between specialists, Emergency Department, Allied Health and GPs. The huge workload associated with producing and reading/responding to all these correspondences was discussed, along with the potential improvements that could result from a more streamlined approach. A copy of the slides is attached.

It was agreed that the area is of critical importance and that further discussion should take place regarding how to support the project proposal (e.g. grant funding application or doctoral research program)

Action: Professor Judi Walker to talk further with Alistair re research support options

6. Study Update and First Annual Report

Professor Judi Walker noted that the first annual report had just been submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services. *(NB The Report has been accepted by the Department and is publically available on the Study website <http://hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au/reports/>)*

Judi gave a brief overview of the progress since the last meeting, noting that the Schools Study, Community Wellbeing, Older People studies were under way and the ELF (infant development) study is about to commence with the Adult Survey expected to commence in the new year.

There was some discussion re alternative population-wide datasets to use to form the nominal roll for the Adult Survey, with the IPM database for the Gippsland health region raised as a possibility. However, the members noted that this database only captures hospital encounters so would miss a significant proportion of the community.

7. Study Website

Members were encouraged to review the study website (<http://hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au>) and provide feedback.

Action: Members to forward any feedback on the website to Dr Jill Blackman

8. Mine Fire Inquiry

Professor Judi Walker gave an overview of the Mine Fire Inquiry, A report on mortality would be forwarded to government early next month with the possibility that there may be recommendations regarding the scope and governance of the Hazelwood Health Study.

9. Other business

No other business was noted.

10. Date next CRG meeting

It was agreed that instead of locking in set meeting dates, it was better to wait until there was something to report or a clinical issue arises that the study needs advice. It was agreed that members should be kept up to date in between meetings through the provision of regular updates, such as a monthly report or newsletter.

Action: Dr Jill Blackman and Susan Denny to discuss mechanisms for keeping the CRG members up to date