

# ANZMUSC and COCA

## PhD RESEARCH PROJECT TOPIC SUBMISSION

*Complete all sections or indicate 'same as above' where applicable.*

<b>Project title:</b>	Implementation in emergency departments of the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) model of care for acute low back pain
<b>Primary Supervisor (s)</b>	Prof Chris Maher
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<b>Associate Supervisor (s)</b>	Manuela Ferreira (advisory panel Rachele Buchbinder, Ian Harris)
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<b>Project description:</b> In 200-250 words (or less), please provide a synopsis of the project, highlighting the main features of the project (including the potential research question, aim, rationale).	<p>A major driver of the poor health outcomes and substantial costs for low back pain is that most patients receive the wrong care for their back problem. While there is now a good understanding for how low back pain should be managed, studies around the globe have repeatedly shown that patients miss out on good quality care and instead receive more complex and costly care. Key examples of low value care include overuse of spinal imaging, opiate analgesia, hospital admission and surgery. The emergency department is an important setting in which to improve care for low back pain as approximately half the healthcare costs for low back pain are for admitted patient care. In Australia rates of hospitalisation for back problems are increasing sharply.</p> <p>Our goal is to improve the management of acute low back pain in emergency departments. Our first step was to work with policy makers, clinicians, consumers and researchers to develop a model of care that distills the high quality evidence in this area to key messages for practice. The model of care includes tools to guide clinicians managing acute low back pain and a companion document for consumers. Our next step is to translate this evidence into practice by implementing the acute back pain model of care into emergency departments across NSW.</p> <p>Our specific research question is: Can a multi-faceted intervention to implement the ACI model of care improve the healthcare provided in an emergency department for people with acute low back pain?</p>

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<p><b>Methodological approach:</b> In 200-250 words (or less) describe the main methodological approach to be undertaken (quantitative or qualitative). Also detail the proposed type of data collection the student will be required to undertake. If the project uses existing data, clarify how this project will be unique.</p>	<p><b>Research design</b> The study will use a stepped wedge cluster randomised controlled trial design. Five emergency departments (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Concord, Canterbury, Westmead, Royal North Shore) will take part in the study and will be randomised in a stepped fashion for implementation of the model of care. The trial will have a baseline observation period of 3 months followed by 5 steps of 3 months. At 3 months the model of care will be implemented in one randomly selected emergency department and by 15 months the model of care will be implemented at all five emergency departments.</p> <p><b>Intervention</b> To implement the model of care we will use a multi-faceted intervention comprising education (printed educational materials, interactive educational meetings, educational outreach), local opinion leaders and audit &amp; feedback. We will tailor the intervention to each site by adapting knowledge resources (e.g. printed decision aids, patient resources) to the local context and by working with local opinion leaders to assess barriers/facilitators to knowledge use.</p> <p><b>Healthcare measures</b> To minimise burden on emergency departments we will measure the effect of the implementation using routinely collected outcome measures of: imaging, inpatient admission, provision of an opioid analgesic, undergoing surgery, readmission. Where available, targeted activity reporting systems that capture this data (eg. Sydney Local Health District Targeted Activity and Reporting System; (STARS)) will be used.</p>
<p><b>Necessary skills/knowledge:</b> Outline the main skills and knowledge the student will need to undertake the project.</p>	<p>An understanding of the clinical management of low back pain. Skills in clinical epidemiology are desirable.</p>
<p><b>Ethics Approval</b> (please tick appropriate answer)</p>	<p>Yes ____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ____ If No: date of expected submission_ November 2016 ____</p>
<p><b>Main site of project</b></p>	<p>Emergency departments in Sydney</p>
<p><b>Number of students supervised to completion by supervisor (s)</b></p>	<p>Supervisor 1: <u> 28 </u> Supervisor 2 <u> </u> Supervisor 3 <u> </u></p>
<p><b>Supervisors Availability [hours pw]</b></p>	<p>2hrs per week</p>
<p><b>A/Supervisors availability [hours per week]</b></p>	<p>2hrs per week</p>
<p><b>Research Timeframe:</b></p>	<p>Expected start date for all students is January 2017. If later start date is required, please explain here.</p>