Research translation and impact

PURPOSE

Research conducted in hospital settings plays an important role in improving patient care, advancing medical knowledge and driving innovation in healthcare. This guideline describes steps to effectively, assess, plan, and execute the translation and impact of research findings derived from projects conducted within or in association with Metro South Health (MSH).

OUTCOME

This guideline aims to ensure valuable research findings are effectively translated into tangible improvements within MSH, ultimately enhancing patient care, operational efficiency, and overall service quality.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all MSH employees who conduct human research within or in association with MSH, or through access to MSH participants, health records or data.

GUIDELINE

1. IDENTIFY RESEARCH FINDINGS

- Review the research project's final report, publications, and any associated documentation to understand the key findings and outcomes.
- Ensure clarity on the relevance of the findings to the health service's goals and objectives.
- Be considerate of and assess the regulatory status of any interventions such as new software that may be part of the novel service to be translated and integrated. If acceptable to use 'research grade' devices and/or software additional risk management assessments may need to be undertaken before using in routine care.

2. EVALUATE POTENTIAL IMPACT

- Assemble a cross-functional team including researchers, clinicians, administrators, and relevant stakeholders.
- Assess potential impact of research findings in terms of clinical practice, patient outcomes, policy development, and resource utilisation as well as other health economic considerations.
- Prioritise findings based on their potential to positively influence health service operations and patient care.
- Explore opportunities for licensing and commercialisation of research outcomes with industry partners.

3. OBTAIN EXECUTIVE ENDORSEMENT

- Prepare a concise summary of the research findings, their implications, and the proposed implementation plan.

- Present the summary to the relevant Executive/Department Head for endorsement and support.
- Address any questions or concerns raised by the executive team and incorporate their feedback into the implementation plan.

4. DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Design a comprehensive implementation plan detailing actions required to apply research findings within the health service.
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of individuals involved in the implementation process.
- Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives for each implementation activity.

5. COLLABORATE AND COMMUNICATE

- Foster collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and relevant departments to ensure smooth implementation.
- Involve patients and their families in the implementation process, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are considered.
- Develop a communication strategy to disseminate research findings and implementation progress to staff, patients, and stakeholders.

6. ADAPT POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

- Review existing health service policies and protocols considering the research findings.
- Modify or create new procedures to align with the evidence-based practices derived from the research.
- Involve relevant departments (i.e., MSH Clinical Governance) in procedure revision or development to ensure a coordinated approach.

7. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- Identify training needs for staff affected by the research findings' implementation.
- Develop and deliver ongoing training programs to ensure understanding and proficiency in applying new practices.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training efforts through feedback and assessments.

8. MONITOR AND EVALUATE IMPACT

- Establish metrics and indicators to measure the impact of the implemented research findings.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the changes in clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction, and operational efficiency.
- Adjust implementation strategies based on ongoing evaluation results to optimise impact.

- Establish mechanisms for continuous improvement by encouraging feedback from staff and stakeholders.
- Regularly review and update the implementation plan and strategies based on evolving needs and emerging evidence.

9. MEASURES OF ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

Research impact can be defined as "…the effect of the research after it has been adopted, adapted for use, or used to inform further research" (https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/research-translation-and-impact/research-impact).

When determining the contributions research makes to our communities the following outputs may be measured:

- publication outputs
- editorship of international journals
- involvement in international learned societies
- invited international lectures/other international collaborations
- peer recognition: academy membership
- research income: competitive grants schemes; other grants schemes (incl. international)
- other research income (other contract research)
- international linkages/collaborations/ Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
- visiting scholars and/or postgraduate students
- publication citations
- incorporation of research results into international/national policies, codes and/or practices
- research graduates employed in industry
- industry-funded research places
- academic-industry staff exchanges
- research students industry placements
- holding of exhibitions and presentations
- audience/attendances at exhibitions/ presentations
- media presence through articles, debates, coverage
- expert advice/submissions/panel membership at government inquiries
- patents, commercial licences and/or
- commercial uptake.

10. SHARE SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Share outcomes across the health service and present at forums or publish to highlight the positive impact of research translation.
- Protect potential intellectual property rights while considering opportunities for commercialisation.
- Identify any challenges or obstacles encountered during implementation and share lessons learned for future improvement.

Remember whilst research often involves actions within MSH, there may be occasions where the implementation focus may be external to MSH and can be applied to other healthcare facilities. Additionally, the research may provide evidence which informs changes to national or international clinical guidelines, consensus statements, technical standards and public health interventions, etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility	Audit criteria
Principal Investigator (PI)/ Coordinating Principal Investigator (CPI) - responsible officer	Ensure research impact and translation into clinical practice encompasses designing clinically relevant studies, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, conducting rigorous research with ethical considerations, interpreting and communicating findings effectively to both scientific and clinical communities, facilitating technology transfer, ensuring appropriate quality management systems are in place and regulatory compliance when applicable, and actively engaging in dissemination efforts, partnerships, and ongoing evaluation to bridge the gap between scientific discovery and tangible improvements in healthcare outcomes.	N/A

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Impact	The impact of research on clinical practice refers to the tangible and positive changes, improvements, or advancements that result from the application of research findings, leading to enhanced patient outcomes, more effective treatments, and better healthcare practices.

Translation	The translation of research into clinical practice refers to the process of applying scientific discoveries, innovations, and evidence-based findings from research studies to inform and improve patient care, medical decision-making, and healthcare practices in real-world clinical settings.

RELATED AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Legislation and other Authority	• N/A

Standards	• National Clinical Trials Governance Framework
	• National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards 2nd Ed.
	  ○ Standard 1 – Clinical Governance
	  ○ Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers

Supporting documents	**Policies** • PL2019-64 Consumer Partnering **Procedures** • PR2021-285 Remuneration and reimbursement of consumer partners • PR2019-186 Consumer partner orientation, onboarding and exit • PR2023-411 Research excellence • PR2023-412 Research support and management • PR2023-413 Research administration and compliance **Work instructions** • WI2023-287 Research integrity • WI2023-288 Research quality management systems • WI2023-299 Data and privacy • WI2023-290 Research authorship, peer review and publication • WI2023-291 Research complaints and misconduct • WI2023-292 Assessing and managing risk in research • WI2023-299 Ethical and scientific review of research • WI2023-301 Site specific assessment of research • WI2023-297 Gift cards (for use as research incentives) **Guidelines** • GL2021-75 Partnering with consumers in research • GL2023-97 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research • GL2023-98 Research translation and impact

	• GL2023-99 Planning a research project • GL2021-77 Clinical trials

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 2019

Metro South Hospital and Health Service is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, Metro South Health has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When making a decision about research, decision-makers must comply with that obligation. Further information about the *Human Rights Act 2019* is available at: https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/humanrights.

GUIDELINE DETAILS

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