Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – April to June 2018 quarter.

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries available for the April to June 2018 quarter.

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<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<td>Improving the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-prisoners in Australia</td>
<td>Professor David Preen</td>
<td>The University of Western Australia</td>
<td>1 January 2018</td>
<td>26 April 2021</td>
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This study will be the largest and most in-depth study ever carried out on the health of ex-prisoners. The study will examine health outcomes and patterns of health service utilisation after their release from prison, and explore how health-related outcomes influence the risk of subsequent re-incarceration. This study will also look at differences in health outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-prisoners.

The data is sourced from face-to-face interviews with prisoners in Western Australia and Queensland, combined with a review of prison medical records and prospective linkage with health and correctional records. The findings will inform transitional care for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people transitioning from prison to the community, and inform the current debate regarding the consequences of excluding prisoners from Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidies.

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<td>A review of the epidemiology, management and mortality of patients with penile cancer in Western Australia.</td>
<td>Professor Dickon Hayne</td>
<td>Fiona Stanley Hospital</td>
<td>30 June 2018</td>
<td>31 December 2019</td>
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This study will review how patients diagnosed with penile cancer in Western Australia from 1992 to 2017 have been treated and managed. The aim of this project is to assess short, intermediate and long-term survival outcomes and to determine whether patients diagnosed with penile cancer in Western Australia are being treated in accordance with international standards and evidence-based care.
**Project Title**  Impact of rapid access to cardiology determined multi-modality testing among individuals presenting with new onset chest pain: improving quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness at Royal Perth Hospital: The RADICAL project.

**Principal Investigator**  Dr Jon Spiro

**Institution**  Royal Perth Hospital

**Start Date**  11 April 2018  **Finish Date**  21 December 2020

This study will focus on patients who present with new onset chest pain suggestive of angina, who are referred to the rapid access chest pain clinic (RACPC) at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The proposed RACPC will offer a state-of-the-art service to patients and may help to reduce unnecessary and costly presentations to emergency departments and hospital admissions.

This study will involve testing which method of assessment is the most efficient and least costly in a dedicated clinical setting. In addition, linkage of clinical data to emergency department, inpatient admissions and death data via the Western Australian Data Linkage System will enable an assessment of the clinical outcome of patients treated within the RACPC.

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**Project Title**  Prospective study of adverse pregnancy outcomes from fetotoxic agents in the public water supply

**Principal Investigator**  Professor Angus Cook

**Institution**  The University of Western Australia

**Start Date**  31 May 2018  **Finish Date**  1 December 2020

Disinfection of public water supplies is important for the protection of public health. However a major drawback of this treatment process is the production of disinfection by-products (DBPs), of which some are thought to be potentially harmful to the developing fetus. A group of chemicals known as trihalomethanes (THMs) are one of the most common by-products. Water supplies in Perth are known to contain relatively high levels.

This study aims to assess whether there is an association between THM exposure (via the public water supply) in pregnant women and adverse pregnancy outcomes in Perth.
### Project Title
Heritable and environmental determinants of hospitalisation for common childhood illnesses - Study 2: association between monozygotic and dizygotic twins, their sibs and their parents in hospital admissions.

### Principal Investigator
Professor Nick De Klerk

### Institution
Telethon Kids Institute

### Start Date
14 May 2018

### Finish Date
23 April 2021

Infectious diseases are the leading cause of childhood death and health service use worldwide. Why some children develop more severe infection is largely unknown. The relative contribution of genetic and environmental factors to common childhood infections severe enough to require hospitalisation is largely unexplored and is the overall aim of this project. The first study on associations between non-twin brothers and sisters is currently being analysed. The second distinct and separate part of this study, will examine these same questions in twin families.

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### Project Title
The types and causes of anticoagulant-related medication incidents across hospitals in Western Australia.

### Principal Investigator
Dr Audrey Koay

### Institution
Department of Health

### Start Date
17 May 2018

### Finish Date
17 May 2020

A report by the Quality Improvement and Change Management (QICM) unit on statewide anticoagulant incident data was developed in response to a request from the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). Reports on specific high risk medication incidents have been previously developed by QICM for use by Health Service Providers in identifying strategies to reduce the risk of medication errors. These reviews are part of ‘business as usual’ for the Medication Safety Portfolio in QICM.

During the review of the requested data for the ACSQHC, it was identified that the findings within the report were novel and of importance due to the lack of published data available in Australia on incidents related to anticoagulants and more specifically the direct oral anticoagulants. This project will investigate the findings of the report requested from the ACSQHC.
Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) is an evidence-based intervention recommended for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the second leading cause of avoidable hospitalisation in Australia. PR is offered in phases and improves quality of life and reduces healthcare utilisation. As any benefit from Phase 2 PR diminishes after completion, participants are invited to continue attending a weekly Phase 3 maintenance class for 10 weeks, with a further 10 months if suitable. The 2017 Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinical Practice Guidelines calls for further research to clarify the benefits of Phase 3 PR. It is hypothesise that extending Phase 3 PR beyond 10 weeks is cost-effective to WA Health.