

MEDIA RELEASE

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Two InterQual projects to commence at Wollongong hospital

Two projects evaluating the validity and usability of the McKesson InterQual Review Manager utilisation review application have commenced at Wollongong Hospital. Building on a previous trial¹ conducted in 2004, these are being led by Associate Professor Chris Poulos, South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service.

The InterQual utilisation review criteria measure **'the appropriateness of the level of care a patient is receiving'**. In the United States, InterQual criteria assist clinical decision making for more than 100 million lives and are used by more than 2900 hospitals. They are also used extensively in the Canadian healthcare system as well as in the NHS in the United Kingdom to provide benchmark data as to patterns of care delivery and to support in clinicians in making decisions as to appropriate treatment settings for patients.

InterQual has potential as a tool to improve the efficiency of patient flow through the hospital system. The current projects will look at the usability of InterQual criteria to facilitate improved patient flow through acute and rehabilitation care settings as well as identify barriers to optimising care delivery.

InterQual has already been piloted at Wollongong Hospital in an earlier study. It was reported that *"InterQual Criteria may have a useful role for patient selection in rehabilitation, in facilitating the transfer of patients from acute to sub acute care and in improving patient flow within acute care"*¹

The two projects at Wollongong will focus on building on this data and extending its evaluation into the acute care setting.

About McKesson

McKesson is the leading provider of telephone-based healthcare throughout Australia and New Zealand. McKesson employs health professionals including nurses, social workers, psychologists and medical practitioners to provide a range of health advice programs for state and national governments, regional or area health services, private insurers and other health funders.

McKesson's services include; telephone triage (including health information, advice and referral), mental health triage and case management, chronic disease management and oral/dental health services.

For more information about McKesson, please contact Nikki Ward, Marketing Executive at McKesson on (02) 9425 3700. For further information about McKesson Asia-Pacific, please visit <http://www.mckesson.com.au>

¹ Poulos C, Eagar K, Poulos R, *Managing the interface between acute care and rehabilitation – can utilisation review assist?*, AHR, April 2007 Vol 31, Suppl 1