

Wednesday 1 April 2009



MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE FOR CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Wimmera Health Care Group's clinical quality improvement program was showcased in Berlin at an international conference last week.

Director of Medical Services, A/Prof Alan Wolff, presented the findings of an eight-year study into clinical quality improvement, at the international forum on quality and safety in health care in Berlin.

A/Prof Wolff said that the study measured the rate of compliance with key measures shown in clinical research to improve patient outcome.

"Our clinical quality improvement program uses checklists in clinical pathways to increase the quality of care provided to patients admitted to the hospital with a heart attack or stroke. It has demonstrated a dramatic increase in the use of key treatments using clinical pathways that provide a comprehensive checklist for clinicians when they are treating patients" he said.

A/Prof Wolff said that the research paper was selected from more than 600 submissions for presentations at the conference.

"The conference was held at Berlin's International Conference Centre. It was attended by 1,700 clinicians and Managers from all around the world and we were one of only a handful of presentations selected from Australian hospitals" he said.

The paper was written by Wimmera Health Care Group's Sally Taylor (Clinical Risk Manager), Alicia McGrath (Clinical Pathway Co-ordinator) and A/Prof Wolff.

A/Prof Wolff said that the research paper was well received with many people asking questions about the program. "We had many requests to share our information, especially from some of the poorly resourced smaller countries. It was fantastic to receive so much interest in our program" he said.

A/Prof Wolff said that he also took the opportunity to promote a new book written by Ms Taylor and himself entitled "Enhancing Patient Care – a practical guide to improving quality and safety in hospital". It summarises the scientific literature about quality and safety in healthcare and describes the

program developed at Wimmera Health Care Group over the past 20 years. The book will be published in mid-April.

A/Prof Wolff encouraged anyone interested in learning more about the research project to download the paper from Wimmera Health Care Group's website - <http://www.whcg.org.au/publications>.



Sally Taylor and A/Prof Alan Wolff with a poster that summarises the research project



The international conference centre in Berlin where A/Prof Wolff presented the research paper on clinical quality improvement

MEDIA CONTACT: Sue Frankham
Community and Private Patient Liaison Officer
Ph. 5381 9309