



Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

RBWH Research Report 2024

Medical Services

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Government



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

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Medical Services



Associate Professor Mark Mattiussi
Chief Medical Officer and Director Medical Services
Medical Services

Medical Services provides services across the entire Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Medical Administration and participates in and supports research, in addition to medical professional governance, education, and medical recruitment services across the hospital.

When I commenced in my role as Chief Medical Officer and Director Medical Services, I emphasised my strong commitment for the Medical Services Team to be actively involved in research, teaching and contributing to improving the health care system through evidence-based practice. The RBWH Medical Services team has progressed this commitment to contribute to the academic footprint within the RBWH and Medical Administration more broadly and I am very proud of the research achievements of the service line during 2024.

In 2024 the team conducted research in the areas of Medical Officer Wellness and patient safety initiatives concerning: Clinical Handover; Management of Deteriorating Patients and Hand Hygiene in addition to supporting, developing and implementing safety and quality improvement initiatives across the RBWH including but not limited to Prevocational Training, Medical Officer Recruitment, Discharge Summary Completion and Consent for Emergency Procedures.

Research Highlights

In 2024, RBWH Medical Services continued to drive impactful research, securing competitive grants, publishing in high-impact journals, and contributing to evidence-based improvements in patient care and medical administration.

Researchers working on projects coordinated by Medical Services successfully obtained multiple research grants, supporting studies aimed at improving patient safety and clinical workflows. Notably, The COMFORTER Study, a collaboration led by Dr. Anthony Batterbury and colleagues, received funding from the RBWH Foundation CRF to develop a decision-making framework for safer patient placement after medical emergency team (MET) reviews. Another key project, Making Hand Hygiene Impossible Not to Do, led by Dr Kate McCarthy and team, was awarded a SERTA grant to apply behavioural design strategies for increasing hand hygiene compliance among healthcare workers. The Pastoral Care Model, led by Dr Liz Crowe and team, provided crucial support for research into factors influencing clinician well-being and retention.

RBWH Medical Services spearheaded research into critical areas of hospital operations, patient safety, and workforce sustainability. A large-scale retrospective analysis on electronic discharge summaries, led by Dr Jayden Mifsud, identified systemic barriers affecting timeliness and the impact on hospital readmission rates, with findings presented at a national conference. Medical services has ongoing work in the areas of Resident Medical Officer wellbeing, N95 mask fit testing, and the impact of Ryan's Rule activations.

RBWH Medical Services researchers had a strong publishing record in 2024, including an article on patient outcomes following MET reviews in the Journal of Clinical Nursing, where predictive models were developed to identify at-risk patients. Multiple conference presentations at national and international forums reinforced RBWH's leadership in medical administration and quality improvement research.

The research undertaken by RBWH Medical Services in 2024 has directly contributed to policy refinements, improved hospital workflows, and enhanced patient safety strategies. Through ongoing collaborations and a strong commitment to translational research, RBWH Medical Services continues to play a pivotal role in advancing healthcare outcomes and system efficiency at Australia's largest tertiary hospital.

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Liz Crowe, Helen Vickery-Smith, Mark Mattiussi, Chris Beck, Kathy Luong	Medical Services	The Pastoral Care Model	RBWH SERTA Committee	10,245	2 years, 2022-2024
Anthony Batterbury , Clint Douglas, Mark Mattiussi , Aaron Conway, Alanna Geary, Merryl Wilson	Medical Services	A Collaborative Decision-Making Framework for Safer Patient Placement After Medical Emergency Team Review—The COMFORTER Study	RBWH Foundation CRF RBWH Research Fellowship Grant	88,170	2 years, 2024-2025
Kate McCarthy, Marie Bowden, Trish Hurst, Michelle Doige, Mark Mattiussi	Medical Services	Making Hand Hygiene Impossible Not to Do: Design Think to Facilitate Healthcare Professional Behaviour	SERTA	74,995	1 year, 2024

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Jayden Mifsud	Anthony Deacon, Mark Mattiussi, Daniel Fink	Timeliness of electronic discharge summary completion	4	> 10,000 records
Jayden Mifsud	Mark Mattiussi	Ryan’s Rule Cohort Study	4	TBA
Anthony Deacon	Mark Mattiussi, Andrew Redmond	Changes in N95 Mask Fit	4	NA

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Anthony Deacon	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5051-4817
Jayden Mifsud	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8701-1188
Mark Mattiussi	https://orcid.org/0009-0009-2834-9013

Publications in 2024

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)
Batterbury A, Douglas C, Coyer F. Patient outcomes following medical emergency team review on general wards: Development of predictive models. J Clin Nurs. 2024;33(9):3565-75
Mifsud JA, Deacon AJ, Fink D, Mattiussi M. Timeliness of electronic discharge summary completion: structural barriers prevent further improvement. In Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators Conference; 2024 Oct 1-4; Brisbane, AU
Deacon AJ, Mifsud JA, Fink D, Mattiussi M. Timeliness of electronic discharge summary completion reduces the risk of hospital readmission: an inconvenient truth. In Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators Conference; 2024 Oct 1-4; Brisbane, AU
Deacon AJ, Mifsud JA, Fink D, Mattiussi M. Timeliness of electronic discharge summary completion reduces the risk of hospital readmission: an inconvenient truth. In the International Forum on Quality and Safety Healthcare Conference; 2024 Nov 6-8; Brisbane, AU
Deacon AJ, Hoey P, Grimpen F, Francis L, Brown I, Leggett B. Spontaneous remission of Cronkhite-Canada syndrome without immunosuppressive medication in the context of decompensated cirrhosis: a case report. Clin. Case Rep. 2024; 12(1);e8985.