Nursing and midwifery research

Frequently asked questions

I'm not sure if it's a quality activity or research. How can I tell the difference?

We suggest that you read the Quality improvement or research project? document and contact GCHEthics@health.qld.gov.au or call the HREC Coordinator on 5687 3879 if you are still unsure.

To find out more about conducting quality activities as a Gold Coast Health staff member, please contact your Directorate Quality Coordinator or email your request to GCQualityAdmin@health.qld.gov.au.

I am keen to present our quality activity or research work at a conference or publish my results. How do I do this?

Some forms of quality activity and all forms of research activity need ethics approval to present or publish. Please review the Research Ethics processes to understand the documents required for publishing or presenting. If you are still unsure, please contact the Office for Research Governance and Development for ethics advice at GCHEthics@health.qld.gov.au or call the HREC Coordinator on 5687 3879, as documentation exists to ensure you can disseminate your work after completion.

If you are a Gold Coast Health staff member, the research office can also assist with developing and editing your poster, presentation, or publication. Please contact GCHResearchDevelopment@health.qld.gov.au for advice about this.

I am unsure of how to make changes in my work place, as well as how to measure and sustain these changes. Is there anyone that can help?

Regardless of whether your project is research or a quality activity, ensuring the change you plan to make is evidence-based (i.e. you have done a literature search), and understanding the problem in the workplace, is important. You may have a good idea of how you think the process can be improved, but you will see little change without understanding the problem.

If you need further help as a Gold Coast Health staff member, please contact GCHResearchDevelopment@health.qld.gov.au to provide project guidance. The Research Development team can guide you to a researcher with the right expertise. The researcher cannot lead the research for you but may be available to share expertise or provide mentorship (determined on a case-by-case basis).

What does taking part in a research study involve?

You can be involved in research in several ways, and sometimes it may only take minutes of your time. Your involvement may include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

- promoting a research project happening in your department or ward by being a project champion or ward contact person
- assisting Research Assistants working on a project in your ward to identify suitable patients to recruit
- working with a research team as a Research Assistant on one or more projects
- being an investigator on a research study.

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I have a degree and want to be involved in research but don't know where to start?

You can become involved in research in multiple ways. Being a research user means considering your clinical practice through reviewing evidence about this. You may also be able to support others through this process. You can do this through activities such as a journal club. If you are a Gold Coast Health staff member interested in starting one, please contact the Evidence-Based Practice Professorial Unit, Bond University at EBP_unit@bond.edu.au.

You can also become actively involved in research by first becoming involved with existing studies. Please talk to someone in your division doing investigator-led research to find out if and how you could be involved. In some cases, opportunities may exist for you to be a project Research Assistant. One of our nursing and midwifery researchers may also be able to provide some advice.

In addition, you may wish to undertake a Research Higher Degree such as a Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). For more information, contact local universities or speak with a Gold Coast Health nursing or midwifery researcher.

I have a Master's Degree and want to do a PhD. Am I eligible? Who do I talk to?

We suggest that you look at a few universities online and then ask to speak to the HDR (Higher Degree Research) coordinator to discuss your eligibility, topic, and potential supervisors.

You can also chat to one of the joint appointees who may also have some advice. The Research Higher Degree Coordinator for Griffith University, our local university, is Professor Andrea Marshall who is also based at Gold Coast University Hospital. Please contact her on (07) 5687 3235 or email a.marshall@griffith.edu.au.

Are there any short courses I can do to give me a 'taste' of research?

Yes, you can do various online and face-to-face research courses. Gold Coast Health has an online program, the STAR program, for staff which provides workshop series' recordings that you can listen to at your own pace—this is free. Other short courses can be accessed through:

- ARCS Australia

- Joanna Briggs Institute

- Coursera.

You can also contact the Office for Research Governance and Development at ResearchGoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au who can add you to the Gold Coast Health Research Newsletter contact list where courses and conferences are regularly promoted.

How do I find out more or take part in a research study?

You can use several approaches to find out more about what's happening in the research space. Some suggestions include:

- If you want to be part of a project team, then speak with department heads and/or senior colleagues to help identify who is doing investigator-led projects in your clinical area.

- Within the hospital/district, nurses and midwives who work as joint appointments in research are available, each with a particular focus. Read more about their research areas.