

Northern Health Research Digest

Welcome to this **Special Edition** of our research newsletter, where we provide our supporting departments with a platform to showcase their services and highlight their valuable contributions to advancing clinical trials and research, guided by the principles of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework.

Special Edition
Issue #16 15 May 2025

This edition aims to display the of services available to researchers and to acknowledge the ongoing support provided by these departments in fostering a high-quality and collaborative research environment at Northern Health. Our supporting departments are here to empower clinical trial activity and investigator-led research from start to finish. We encourage you to reach out to them in the early stages of your project to ensure streamlined processes, gain expert guidance, and maximise the success and impact of your research.

We invite all researchers to utilise the resources offered by our supporting departments, which are featured on the [Research Website](#). Additionally, we are dedicated to providing essential tools through our [Library of Resources](#) to help you succeed in your research projects.

Should you have any questions or need additional support, don't hesitate to reach out to the RDGU.

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Health Information Services (HIS)

Entering PICFs into the Medical Record

At Northern Health, the fully signed PICFs are stored under the "legal" tab/divider in the Clinical Patient Folder (CPF) the scanned medical record. There are three options for placing a copy of the signed PICF in CPF:

1. Research team to photocopy the PICF and hand deliver to Health Information Services (HIS) for scanning and uploading. HIS Department is located near main hospital front reception at NHE.
2. Research team scans and emails the PICF to nh-cpffeedback@nh.org.au where HIS team will review and upload to CPF.
3. Access to Web Interface for Loading Documents ([WILD](#)) to be granted upon email request to nh-cpffeedback@nh.org.au, research team scans a copy of the PICF, and the PICF is filed directly into CPF by the research team, no oversight by HIS unless there is an error. See [Wild User Training Manual](#) for more details. WILD can also be accessed through CPF via the Summary tab/divider, under links.

Note: HIS does not require the document to be certified or marked as a copy, however each document submitted must contain three points of patient ID (Patient UR – Surname, Given name – DOB).

Clinical Trials Pharmacy

Northern Health Pharmacy has been able to support more trials across different phases and assist a greater number of departments conducting trials. Pharmacy's involvement in supporting these trials continues to grow. Pharmacy is currently supporting approximately 50 trials and we are anticipating to activate more trials in the next few months

A key pharmacy achievement is the support to build a new aseptic compounding suite which will include cytotoxic compounding. This new facility will enhance our capacity to support additional trials, allowing us to bring compounding in-house and enabling more efficient and accessible treatment options for better patient care.

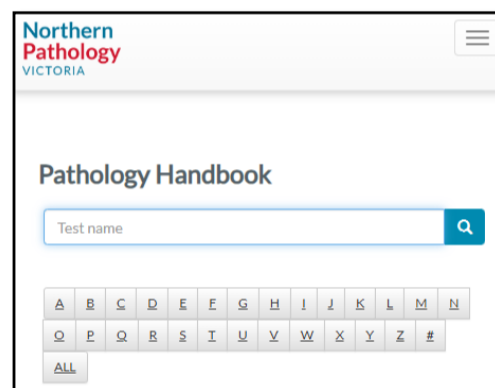


Northern Pathology Victoria (NPV)

NPV continues to expand to meet the growing clinical demands of the Northern Health network, with a number of new in-house services having been recently introduced, including anatomical pathology, flow cytometry, and immunology. In addition, we now have [7 collection centres](#) serving the northern community. Please refer to the NPV Handbook for the full range of tests available: <https://handbook.northernpath.org.au/>

NPV is also focused on supporting research and development, particularly in the fields of thrombosis and cardiovascular medicine. NECTAR (the Northern Clinical Diagnostics and Thrombovascular Research Group) is the NPV research group, led by Prof Prahlad Ho and A/Prof Hui Yin Lim. We were very proud to showcase our current research at Research Week 2024, with NECTAR members being [awarded first, second, and third places in the oral presentations category](#). We are also open to collaborating with other research groups on their projects – please get in touch via NH-NPVResearch@nh.org.au.

All research projects requiring pathology services (including standard-of-care testing) should apply to NPV for approval as part of the research governance/site-specific application process. Further details can be found on [our intranet page](#), or you can email NH-NPVResearch@nh.org.au for more information.



Northern Imaging Victoria (NIV)

Northern Imaging Victoria (NIV) is the comprehensive medical imaging service of Northern Health. NIV operates from the Northern Hospital Epping, Broadmeadows Hospital, and Bundoora Centre campuses of Northern Health. NIV has expertise in diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology and nuclear medicine.

To find general information about NIV, [click here](#). If you require NIV services for your clinical trial or research project, please refer to the Research Governance SOP. For enquiries and further support to access NIV's services for research, or to request the current fee schedule, please contact NIVResearch@nh.org.au



Decision Support Unit (DSU)

Here is a summary of the research related activities that Decision Support has provided data support to over the past few months:

Approved Research Initiatives

- The health economics of the Northern Health Palliative Care Unit relocation
Principal Investigator: Dr Alison Giles Associate Investigators: A/Prof Jaclyn Yoong, Dr Mani Suleiman, and A/Prof Chris Schilling

Internal Quality Projects/Audits

- Evaluation of Prescribed Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) for Respiratory Ward Patients with COPD: Adherence to Northern Health's Tobacco Dependence Clinical Management Guideline
Associate Investigator(s): Jeff Khoshaba, David Nguyen, Jier Nguyen, Samantha Botta
- What are the outcomes for patients undergoing Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiogram (PTC) stenting for cancer at Northern Health?
Associate Investigator(s): Russell Hodgson, Ruby Green
- Retrospective Audit Study of Closed Proximal Phalanx (P1) Fracture Management – Conservative v. Surgical
Principal Investigator(s): Ms Fiona Moate Associate Investigator(s): Mr Justin Easton, Ms Erin Williams, Huy Tran

Upcoming Research Initiatives

- Generation V – Clinical Data Linkage. Decision Support will assist with the extraction and validation of data supporting the GenV project. Generation V (GenV) is a research initiative involving the collection of information about a longitudinal cohort of babies born over a 2-year period and residing in Australia, and their parents. GenV is the largest childhood research project undertaken in Australia. GenV is led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), with the core funding provided by the Victorian Government and the Paul Ramsay Foundation. More information about GenV can be found at www.genv.org.au.

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Transcultural and Language Service (TALS)

2025 updates: current projects TALS is involved in / being consulted on and academic papers based on TALS work

- **Improving access and capacity for cancer clinical trials among CALD patients at Northern Health:** TALS has been supporting this project with staff consultations, translated resources and surveys, and focus groups. A poster was presented during Research Week 2024 (see below). Further discussions with consumer representatives and focus groups revealed additional tools to improve access, and the project team has now applied for funding to develop further resources.
- **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Patient Experiences in Palliative Care Project by Benjamin Dent (final year medical student):** TALS provided an opportunity for Benjamin Dent to consult with TALS Interpreters to explore challenges and improvements in interpreting for palliative care, focusing on communication barriers, gaps in patient care, and ways to enhance communication in the palliative care settings.
- **Cultural adaptation of Musculoskeletal Wellness (MSK-W) program at Northern Health:** TALS has previously collaborated with the MSK-W Team and developed resources for patients in different languages. Currently TALS is being consulted on how to extend the program to other language groups.
- **Launch of the 2025-27 NH Cultural Responsiveness Plan:** <https://www.nh.org.au/northern-health-cultural-responsiveness-plan-2025-27-launching-inclusive-care/>
- **Two academic papers** based on TALS work have been published regarding interpreters' roles in supporting multicultural communities through language services:
 - [Hlavac J, Zucchi E., Hu Y.: Patients with non-English language preference: Data from an Australian healthcare facility on reported use of professional interpreting services, Translation and Interpreting Journal \(2025\):](#) The study surveyed 1,120 non-English language preference (NELP) patients from 2016 to 2020, and reinforces the importance of organisational cultural competence in identifying language needs and the need for clear communication on interpreter roles and patient rights.
 - [Hlavac J, Zucchi E., Hu Y.: What do\(n't\) hospital patients like about using professional interpreting services?, Language and Health Journal \(2024\)](#)
- **Global Conference on Migration and Health Equity:** TALS presented at the 2nd Global Conference on Migration and Health Equity in Western Sydney University on 30th January 2025 highlighting the role of language services in health equity. Discussions reinforced a strength-based approach, recognising language services as a professional discipline rather than addressing a "language deficit."



Northern Health Library

The Library plays a key role in supporting research across Northern Health by offering individualised research consultations, as well as individual and group training on literature searching.

All Library services that support research are aligned with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework. This includes expert literature searching, guidance on reference management, publication support, and the use of reliable, evidence-based clinical information tools. Their support helps ensure research is conducted with integrity, quality, and in line with national standards.

They may provide tailored assistance for grant applications, ethics submissions, systematic reviews, and manuscript preparation. Enquire with the Library to find out more.



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Image source: Vecteezy.com

Northern Health Research Repository

The Library manages and maintains the Northern Health Research Repository, providing a central platform to showcase and preserve the organisation's research outputs. Current enhancements focus on improving metadata quality, expanding content to include corporate and historical information and refining the user experience to support discoverability and reporting.

Please visit this [link](#) to access the publications page and locate the NH repository. The Research Repository is still under development. If you do not see your publication listed, please contact the library via email - nhlibinfo@nh.org.au

If you would like to feature any items on the Research Digest, please contact [us](#).

Northern Health