

Professional Development Courses

Course Name	Length	Description
Introduction to evidence-based healthcare	2 days	<p>This workshop seeks to present the basics of evidence-based healthcare. Sessions will address some of the important questions facing those engaged in the analysis of healthcare research, policy and delivery including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why the need for evidence based healthcare? ▪ How to develop a research question and where to look for evidence? ▪ How to decide whether evidence is any good? <p>A “hands-on” session will provide participants with an opportunity to practice the skills learnt in the theoretical part of the course.</p>
Introduction to Systematic Reviews	½ day	<p>The aim of this session is to familiarise participants with the role of the Cochrane Collaboration to provide systematic reviews of the evidence for treatment interventions. We will describe the methodological approaches required to produce rigorous, unbiased systematic reviews of interventions as well as introduce participants to the use of forest plots for presenting and summarising findings in a review. Participants will then be given the opportunity to critically appraise and describe the findings of a systematic review published in the Cochrane Library.</p>
Finding evidence on the internet	½ day	<p>Not all healthcare evidence can be found in an easily searchable health information database such as Medline. The so called ‘grey literature’ may also be a valuable source of information such as evidence-based guidelines and government reports. This workshop provides an introduction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet based information ▪ Search engine use ▪ Useful websites ▪ Evaluation of the information

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Diagnostic tests: Critical appraisal of the research evidence	½ day	Critical appraisal of research evidence is a method of evaluating how bias was minimised in a study. The aim of this session is to give participants an overview of the issues involved in critical appraisal of research evidence related to the accuracy of diagnostic tests. Participants will learn how methodological shortcomings can bias the results of diagnostic test research and will apply the principles of critical appraisal by assessing the validity of an article.
How to run a journal club	½ day	An ongoing unit or departmental journal club can be a valuable method of keeping up to date with recent important literature in your field. This workshop will discuss how to establish a journal club and introduce participants to critical appraisal of the literature.
Pragmatic skills in evidence-based practice for busy clinicians	½ day	This interactive workshop is designed for busy clinicians who need a pragmatic and efficient approach to the literature. It will equip you with skills to access and utilise the best available evidence to answer your everyday clinical questions.
Introduction to evidence based sustainable systems change	½ day	The concept of evidence-based practice (EBP), defined as integration of best available research evidence with clinical expertise in the context of the individual patient, is well accepted in the healthcare system. The Centre for Clinical Effectiveness has taken the principles of EBP and applied them to 'evidence-based processes' that incorporate input from consumers, health professionals, the literature and locally collected data in decision-making for change within the health service. The challenge for clinicians, managers and policy makers is to employ all three parts of the model.
Masterclass in evidence based sustainable systems change	2 days	<p>These workshops will demonstrate an evidence-based approach to development, implementation and evaluation of sustainable interventions to improve the quality of healthcare. The focus will be on changes that enable EBP in a sustainable, ongoing quality framework rather than 'one of' interventions.</p> <p>Offered as an introductory session or as a two day masterclass participants will be encouraged to consider how they can apply similar strategies in their own context</p>

Course Name	Length	Description
Introduction to biostatistics	1 day	<p>This workshop provides an introduction to basic biostatistics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Levels of measurement. ▪ Basic tests of association and when to use them ▪ Chi-square and proportions. ▪ Odds ratios and risk differences ▪ t-test ▪ ANOVA ▪ Correlation and linear regression
Introduction to Stata	1 day	<p>Stata is the computer program of choice for biostatistics. This workshop covers essential issues in data management, description and basic analysis of clinical and epidemiological data.</p> <p>This workshop is suitable for people who have never used a computer to perform a statistical analysis. While intended primarily for potential users in the health field, people from all backgrounds are welcome and almost all techniques that we will cover will be relevant to any user</p> <p>Attendees should have their own laptop computer with Stata installed. A limited number of laptops/desk stations are available. Stata can be provided for the duration of the course only.</p>
Human research ethics	½ day	<p>This session is a workshop introduction to human research ethics at Southern Health. The following areas will be covered:</p> <p>An overview of the human research ethics processes at Southern Health; A comprehensive guide to completion of the modules of the Common Application Form, in particular tips on how to avoid common errors made in answering questions in module one; Advice on the various administrative forms required at Southern Health.</p>

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		The session involves a “Hands On” exercise in the preparation of Participant Information documents using draft example information sheets from current research projects at SH; Constructive and informative feedback on these information sheets; Advice on common pitfalls to avoid in the preparation of information sheets generally.
Finding and appraising evidence for research and funding applications	½ day	This course aims to demonstrate how to find the evidence required for funding submissions such as VPACT (the Victorian Policy Advisory Committee on Clinical Practice and Technology).
Introduction to qualitative research methods	½ day	<p>Qualitative health research is often criticised as lacking scientific rigour and that therefore it cannot produce good evidence.</p> <p>This session will first examine the criticisms and then outline ways in which researchers using qualitative research methods can produce rigorous high quality research without compromising the unique contribution that systematic and thoughtfully carried out qualitative research can make to health services research.</p>
Introduction to questionnaire design	1 day	Most of us have had the experience of answering questionnaires that are aggravating either because they don’t ask questions that allow you to answer according to your experience or because they seem repetitive. Alternately as researchers some people find that after administering a questionnaire they have a lot of data that don’t seem relevant in answering the key research question that needs answering. This session aims to help clinician researchers design useful, effective questionnaires. If you are currently trying to design a questionnaire please bring it with you.
Introduction to qualitative data analysis	½ day	This session will provide participants with an overview of data management strategies including qualitative software options, decision-making about units for analysis, analysis processes including content, thematic, semiotic and discourse analyses, movement from initial understandings of a narrative data set through to final conclusions that can be drawn. Participants should prepare questions about their own data analysis needs to be worked on in the second half of the workshop.

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Conducting in-depth interviews	1 day	The workshop provides detailed discussion of the forms that interviewing can take, when and why in-depth interviewing is appropriate in the design of a research project, modes of initiating and probing in an interview, the pragmatics of interviewing, ethics of practice, sensitive interviewing and working with different populations including vulnerable groups. Content will also cover recording of interviews, transcription issues, writing ethics applications when in-depth interviews are used including the issues relating to sampling strategies. Participants will also learn about the methods that are useful in managing narrative data sets and the options available for analysis of narrative data. They will be asked to take part in a number of exercises throughout the workshop to develop and hone interviewing skills in preparation for their own research. Participants are encouraged to bring questions about their own research to the workshop as one session will be devoted to answering such questions.
Conducting focus groups	1 day	This workshop will provide participants with an overview of when and why it is appropriate to use focus groups, sampling and recruitment strategies, detailed outline of facilitation skills, note taking and recording of focus groups. Participants will also examine the ways in which data from focus group interviews can be analysed. In the second half of the workshop participants will be asked to engage in focus group sessions to develop and/or enhance facilitation skills. Participants are invited to bring questions about their own research for discussion in the workshop
Working with cultural diversity in the clinical context	½ day	Nearly 20% of the Australian population are immigrants, many of whom originate from countries which have a different socio-cultural, political and health care system. Best practice delivery of health care requires an understanding of how personally and socially determined health beliefs influence immigrants' access to health services, communication with health providers and expectations of health care. It is also useful to understand community barriers to optimal health care for immigrants in Australia. This workshop will establish a basic skill set in culturally competent health care. It will draw on the health care experiences of established immigrant groups in Australia (e.g. from Italy, Greece, Turkey, Vietnam) and newly emerging communities (e.g. Sahel Africa and Middle East). Gender is an important component of the health care encounter, and will be addressed as a component of culture.

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Clinical utility of gender concepts	½ day	Sex and gender are being recognised as key determinants of health and illness. An increasing body of scientific and clinical research is identifying expressions of illness and responses to clinical interventions that differ for men and women. This course introduces clinicians and scientists to the evidence about the importance of a gender competent approach to scientific inquiry and clinical practice. Mandated by the National Institute of Health in the USA, and now available on your doorstep.