

National Stroke Registry Data Linkage Program: essential infrastructure to inform health care policy and practice

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**Abstract Title** National Stroke Registry Data Linkage Program: essential infrastructure to inform health care policy and practice

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**Oral and poster abstract text** (Arial, size 10 font, left aligned, maximum 250 words)

**Background**

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability. Our innovative data-linkage program, initiated in 2012, has enabled the successful linkage of data from the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) with other state-based and national datasets to investigate the continuum of stroke care.

**Objectives**

To describe the opportunities, progress and challenges in developing a National Stroke Registry Data Linkage Program.

### **Method**

We used a range of iterative and innovative projects linking the AuSCR, used now in >80 public hospitals across Australia with follow-up survey of patients between 90-180 days, with various government-held administrative datasets. These included: National Death Index (NDI), inpatient admissions and emergency presentations, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme(PBS), Medicare Benefits Schedule(MBS), Aged Care services, Ambulance Victoria and the Australian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre(AROC).

### **Results**

Stroke123(NHMRC:#1034415): impact of quality of acute care on admission/emergency presentations and survival; MBS/PBS linkages: adherence to secondary prevention medications and GP care following stroke. Current projects: PRECISE (NHMRC:#1141848) linkages with PBS/MBS, aged care services and admissions/emergency data to evaluate primary care models; ambulance to describe pre-hospital care and AROC to describe rehabilitation care. Challenges: Delays in ethics and data custodian approvals, as well as costs (e.g. SURE and linkage fees) and limited access to data.

### **Conclusions**

The program has been visionary and remains highly contemporary in the field of linked data and its use in reforming health policy. There is active participation of clinicians and policy-makers to ensure the results generated from specific research questions have direct benefits accelerating change in practice and translating into policy.