



Australian Government

National Health and
Medical Research Council

N H M R C

NHMRC TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE (TRIP) FELLOW 2012

Mr Cameron Phillips

Clinical Pharmacist and Educator
Flinders Medical Centre, SA



TRIP Implementation Project:

Improving vancomycin prescribing and monitoring in a tertiary hospital

Vancomycin is the treatment of choice for serious methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections. If patients do not attain therapeutic vancomycin concentrations through appropriate dosing, there is an increased risk of treatment failure, extended hospital stay, drug toxicity and the development of vancomycin resistance. Australian guidelines provide clear recommendations for dosing and monitoring of vancomycin but these are not always followed. Key factors identified include insufficient support and staff training.

Mr Cameron Phillip's project aims to address the practice gap between current and recommended therapeutic dosing and monitoring of vancomycin, through the development and provision of guidelines tailored to local practice. The guidelines will be principally implemented using an educational programme, decision support, audit with feedback and engagement from key opinion leaders.

The guidelines will be developed by a multidisciplinary collaborative team from Pharmacy, Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pharmacology; to implement evidence-based recommendations into a local setting. Immediate and ongoing clinical outcomes will be measured and the effects of the project on antimicrobial stewardship will be evaluated.

Project Mentor:

Professor David Gordon

Department Head Microbiology and
Infectious Diseases
Flinders University,
Flinders Medical Centre SA

TRIP Mentor:

Professor Michael Kidd

Executive Dean
Faculty of Health Sciences
Flinders University SA