



Blueprint objective 2. Performance information and reporting that is fit for purpose

Case example Austin Health: Choosing Wisely champion hospital

What is the community need or problem being addressed? Not all tests, treatments and procedures are in the consumer's best interest, with unnecessary practices being a diversion from high quality care. They can lead to more frequent and invasive investigations that will expose the consumer to undue risk of harm, stress and cost. Choosing Wisely aims to challenge the notion that more is always better by rigorous examination of the evidence and application of this evidence to clinical practice.

What is the approach being implemented? Austin Health was funded under the 2016–17 Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund to enable them to become a Choosing Wisely champion hospital. The Choosing Wisely project at Austin Health took a whole of hospital approach and as a result, impacted care delivery by clinicians and care received by patients across the health service.

What have been the key enablers to the success of this approach? The project had strong multidisciplinary engagement across the hospital, together with executive support. Additionally, multi-modal behaviour change interventions based on high quality evidence supported clinicians to implement improvement initiatives in their teams.

The project demonstrated statistically significant reductions in the volumes of unnecessary coagulation studies and urine cultures being ordered. Auditing of test indications supported this finding and highlighted that clinicians are ordering in line with clinical recommendations.

What have been some of the challenges to the success of this approach? Any initiative that requires behavioural change takes time and the approaches need to be specific to the culture of the organisation. The challenge can often be finding the right problem to address, and ensuring that it is strongly supported by senior clinical staff who are available to drive the change.

What is needed to scale-up the successes? The Choosing Wisely initiative is currently being prepared for scaling across Victoria, in partnership with Austin Health and NPS MedicineWise. The aim is to increase the number of Choosing Wisely champion hospitals across Victoria that support health professionals in delivering safe, effective and efficient care for patients.

More information <https://www.bettercare.vic.gov.au/newsandevents/news/Choosing-wisely-launch>
<http://www.choosingwisely.org.au/recommendations>

