

# Electronic Chest Pain Pathway in the eMR

## Introduction

The most common emergency department presentation across Australia is chest pain. Early identification, diagnosis and treatment are paramount to prevent adverse patient outcomes or death.

This project aimed to create an electronic chest pain pathway (eCPP), improve its compliance and documentation to 100 per cent, reduce acute coronary syndrome (ACS) morbidity/mortality and decrease ACS patients' length of stay in the emergency department (ED) to less than four hours.

The seamless, person-centred eCPP was developed to be compatible with all other pathways. It provided continuous care for patients with deteriorating health and developed key partnerships between the project teams that co-designed the easy-to-use evidence-based tool.

## Key activities

Using the existing CPP, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District eCPP Project Team developed and trialled the eCPP at local tertiary and rural/base hospitals in collaboration with NSW cardiology, EDs and other NSW Health organisations.

Unlike the paper based CPP, the unique eMR CPP form design:

- Ensures access to the latest best-practice guidelines, resulting in optimal health outcomes for the patient
- Promotes compliance due to its integration into eMR
- Is intuitive, unambiguous and easily supports decision pathways
- Requires no printing, is inexpensive and eliminates use of obsolete versions
- Eliminates the need for manual data collection



- Reduces treatment errors and misinterpretation
- Is accessible by all health care professionals wherever they are in the LHD.

## Key achievements

The eCPP has proven to be an invaluable tool in the assessment and treatment of ED chest pain presentations, resulting in a 400 per cent increase in compliance, no Severity Assessment Code (SAC) 1/2 associated with ACS and a 30 per cent reduction in ED length of stay. It is the first successful model implemented in Australia and its design can be used as the template for almost all other electronic clinical pathways.

