

IMPROVEMENT IN GYNAECOLOGY CLINICAL INDICATORS FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF A FORMALISED AUDIT PROCESS IN A REGIONAL UNIT

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Bendigo Health is a leading regional health service located in north-west Victoria, servicing the Loddon Mallee region, with a catchment area a quarter of the size of the state. The Women's and Children's Centre provides specialist gynaecology services, with **nearly 1000 gynaecological procedures performed per year.**

In 2018, a new formalised clinical audit process was introduced. As per the **Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Clinical Indicator Program (CIP)** user manual for gynaecology, six gynaecological indicators were audited, presented and discussed every six months (except indicators pertaining to oncology or mesh).

Three 6-monthly audits were carried out over the **18 months** since the introduction of the audit. A comparison was made between the outcomes of each audit for each indicator, as well as with the outcomes from the most recent Australasian Clinical Indicator Report 2008-2015.

		JAN-JUN 2018	JUL-DEC 2018	JAN-JUN 2019	Trend	Comparison with benchmark (2015)
INDICATOR 1 Blood transfusion (1.1 only – benign disease)	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients receiving unplanned blood transfusion during admission for any surgery	4	2	1		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing gynaecological surgery	478	470	502		
	RATE	0.83%	0.43%	0.20%	Improved	Superior (0.78 per 100)
INDICATOR 2 Injury to a major viscus	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients suffering injury to a major viscus during surgery or up to 2 weeks post-op	4	1	2		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing gynaecological surgery	478	470	502		
	RATE	0.84%	0.21%	0.40%	Improved	Superior (0.49 per 100)
INDICATOR 3 Laparoscopic management of an ectopic pregnancy	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients having laparoscopic management of an ectopic pregnancy	9	4	8		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients presenting with an ectopic pregnancy who are managed surgically	9	4	8		
	RATE	100%	100%	100%	Stable	Superior (91.7 per 100)
INDICATOR 4.1 Thromboprophylaxis for major gynaecological surgery	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing major gynaecological surgery who receive thromboprophylaxis	47	60	54		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing major gynaecological surgery	52	63	56		
	RATE	90.38%	95.24%	96.43%	Improved	Superior (85.3 per 100)
INDICATOR 4.2 Readmission for VTE within 28 days	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients who develop or are readmitted with VTE within 28 days of major gynaecological surgery	0	0	0		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing major gynaecological surgery	52	63	56		
	RATE	0%	0%	0%	Stable	Superior (0.13 per 100)
INDICATOR 6 Menorrhagia	<u>NUMERATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing a hysterectomy for menorrhagia	11	11	15		
	<u>DENOMINATOR</u> No. of patients undergoing gynaecological surgery to treat menorrhagia	73	65	91		
	RATE	15.07%	16.92%	16.48%	Declined	Superior (27.1 per 100)

The introduction of a formalised gynaecological clinical audit using defined criteria benchmarked against national standards not only **identified areas for improvement**, but also **validated the current standard of practice** as being comparable to other healthcare organisations. Moreover, the commitment to this audit process correlated with an **improvement in patient outcomes across almost all clinical indicators**, supporting its importance in ensuring a continual **improvement in the quality and safety of gynaecological surgery into the future.**