



# ICMMU Newsletter

*Intensive Care Coordination & Monitoring Unit*

*Volume 4 Issue 1 February 2007*

- ***Guideline Synthesis from National Guideline Clearinghouse.***

A new product available at the National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC) site is a synthesis of selected guidelines from a similar topic area. This synthesis compares key elements of each guideline including: scope; interventions and practices; major recommendations and the corresponding rating schemes and strength of the evidence; and areas of agreement and disagreement. At this time most topics are not specifically related to intensive care however there are syntheses of guidelines covering pressure ulcer prevention and treatment.

- [http://www.guideline.gov/Compare/comparison.aspx?file=PRESSURE\\_ULCER\\_TREATMENT1.inc](http://www.guideline.gov/Compare/comparison.aspx?file=PRESSURE_ULCER_TREATMENT1.inc)
- [http://www.guideline.gov/Compare/comparison.aspx?file=PRESSURE\\_ULCER\\_PREVENTION1.inc](http://www.guideline.gov/Compare/comparison.aspx?file=PRESSURE_ULCER_PREVENTION1.inc)

The NGC were contacted to identify the methods used. Guidelines are collected from readily available sources and the key elements are extracted from them and compiled into the relevant tables. There are limited search attempts conducted to identify all guidelines relevant to a particular topic. In addition there is no comparison against a set of criteria, such as the AGREE tool (<http://www.agreecollaboration.org/>), to compare the relevant qualities of each guideline. Therefore,

whilst these syntheses are a compilation of guidelines the title of synthesis is somewhat misleading. Synthesis is defined as the development of a coherent whole from the combination of separate elements (<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>). Within evidence-based practice this meaning is extended somewhat to include the development of new meaning or knowledge from a comparison of results and relative qualities of separate elements (consider the function of summary tables of research papers included in a systematic review). Therefore whilst these guideline syntheses provide a listing and limited comparison of some guidelines relevant to a topic they do not necessarily represent the current state of practice for a given topic and as such their application is limited to that of a useful beginning point for an individual guideline developer.

This provides a timely lesson about using information found on the Internet. That is it is always important to know what methods and process were used to develop internet based information so that you are able to make an informed decision regarding the application to your own clinical practice.

### **In-services:**

Has your unit had an inservice yet?

Do you want another inservice?

Please contact: **Kaye Rolls**

☎ 02 4734 1489 / 4734 1585

@ [Rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au)

*Sorry for NSW members only*

- *What's new at AHRQ:*

### Evidence reports

#### 1. Comparison of Endovascular and Open Surgical Repairs for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (2006)

The objective of this evidence review was to evaluate treatment options for nonruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA); the relationship of hospital and physician volume to outcomes for endovascular repair (EVAR); affect of patient and AAA factors on outcomes; cost-benefits of treatments.

- <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/aaarepair/aaarep.pdf>

#### 2. Closing the Quality Gap: A Critical Analysis of Quality Improvement Strategies, Volume 6 — Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (2007)

This is an evidence review commissioned by AHRQ with the objective of determining the effects of quality improvement strategies on promoting adherence to interventions for prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), and on HAI rates. The review addresses interventions focused on reduction of surgical site infections (SSI), central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), and catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI).

- <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/qualgap6/hainfgap.pdf>

### Education

AHRQ have produced an 11-minute DVD as an education tool for clinicians' who insert chest tubes. The DVD uses actual video footage to demonstrate potential and actual problems. At the time of writing no information regarding cost had been forthcoming.

- <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/chesttubes.htm>



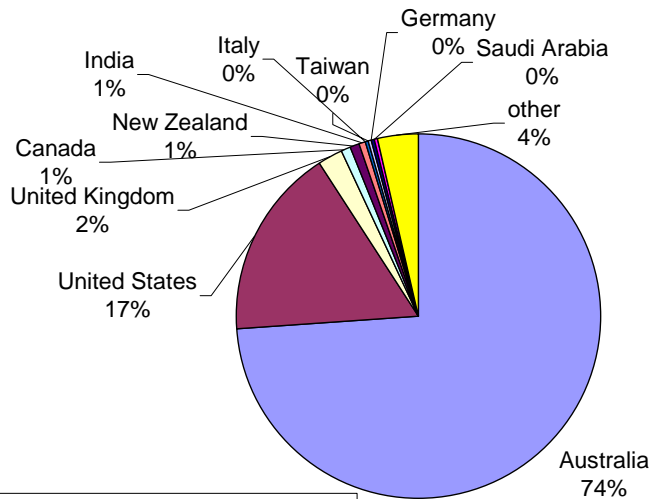
- *Do you have to develop posters for conference presentation?*

It's a well-known scenario, you have been accepted for a conference presentation, and it's a poster or poster-oral. You are able to cover the cost of printing but the cost of a graphic designer is prohibitive. You have heard that developing a poster in PowerPoint is possible but how will you produce the most effective content and lay out? Miller (2007) has reviewed the literature and provides a comprehensive 'how to' for preparing an effective research poster.

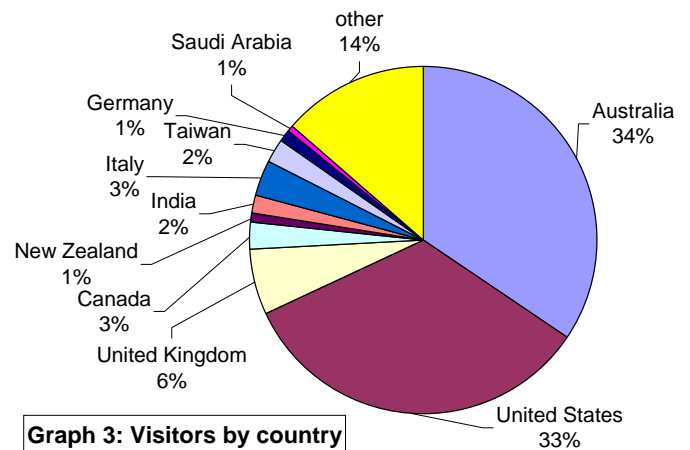
Miller JE (2007) Preparing and presenting effective research posters. HSR: Health Services Research 42 (1) 311-328.

▪ **ICCMU website**

- The transfer of the website to a new host in December 2005 has resulted in a bumper year for the ICCMU website achieving a steady growth of around 17% per month for hits, page views and visitors (see table 1 and graph 1).
- NSW accounts for 58% of Australian and 38% of total page views.
- NSW accounts for 23% of Australian and 6% of total visitors.
- In NSW 59% of hits and 58% of page views originate from rural centres. By contrast this represents only 9% of NSW visitors.
- The leading city of origin in NSW is Newcastle (50% hits, 49%page views and 2% visitors) followed by Sydney (17% hits, 16%page views and 81% visitors).



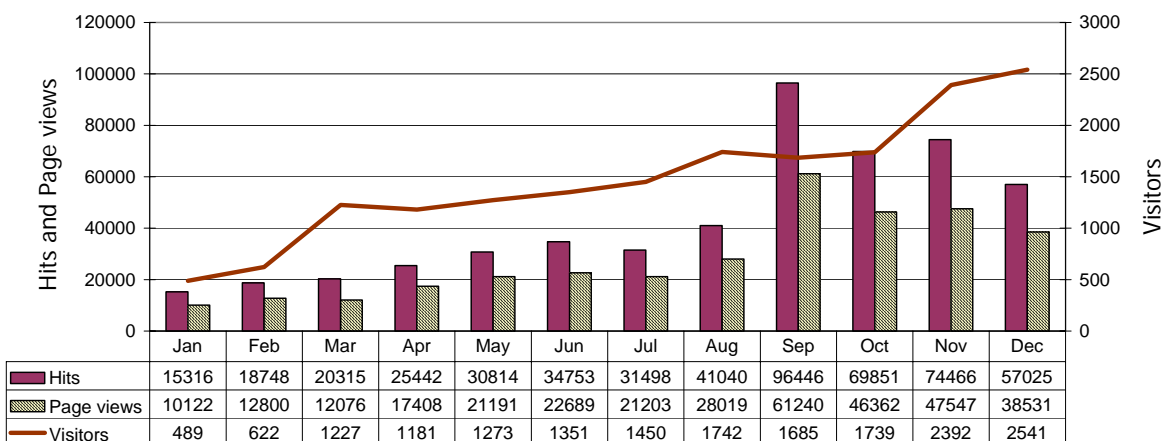
**Graph 2: Hits by Country of Origin**



**Graph 3: Visitors by country**

	Hits	Page views	Visitors
2006			
Total	515,714	339,188	17,692
Mean-month	42,976	28,266	1,474
Mean-day	1412.92	929.28	48.47

**Graph 1: ICCMU Website Activity 2006**



<http://intensivecare.hsnet.nsw.gov.au>

**Guideline Access**

Username: iccmu

Password: Icu41585

**Forum Access**




Username: clinician

Password: Icu41585

**NOTE:**

Usernames & passwords are case sensitive!

## For Your Diary:

- **Using Evidence in Clinical Practice**   
March 5-6, 2007  
NSW Centre for Evidence Based Health Care,  
A collaborating centre of The Joanna Briggs  
Institute  
RPA Hospital,  
Camperdown Sydney  
Contact: Philomena Kaarma 02 9828 6587  
Email: [Philomena.karma@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Philomena.karma@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)
- **5th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care**   
August 6-8, 2007  
Brisbane Convention Centre  
Brisbane  
Website: <http://www.aqhc.org.au/conf2007.asp>
- **Care of the Critically Ill Patient**  
March 14 2007,  
Country Comfort Ashwood Resort  
Dubbo NSW  
Contact: Kaye Rolls [rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rollsk@wahs.nsw.gov.au)
- **Connecting with Neuroscience - SESIAHS**   
30<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Education and Research Centre  
St. George Hospital  
Kogarah  
Contact:  
Jo McLoughlin mobile 0422518255  
Email: [Joanne.Mccloughlin@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Joanne.Mccloughlin@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)  
Roslyn Millar 02 93503559  
Email: [Roslyn.Millar@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Roslyn.Millar@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)
- **Critical Care in the Vineyards**  
Thursday April 26  
Hunter Valley,  
Newcastle  
Contact: Karen Chronister 0438 476 907  
Program can found at ICCMU website.
- **ACCCN ICE - 2007**  
4-5 May 2007  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual ICE Meeting  
Hilton Hotel,  
Adelaide SA  
Website: <http://www.acccn.com.au/>

ICCMU is happy to include details of any critical care related conference or seminar in this newsletter, on the website or both.

Simply email ICCMU with the relevant details.

The newsletter is published bimonthly in the second or third week.

February - April - June -  
August - October - December

*All web and email addresses were correct at time of publication.*

Edited by Di Kowal & Kaye Rolls

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