



## PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

<b>Project Title</b>	How does a B-lactam allergy listing on a patient's medical records impact management of gonorrhoea infections in the Canberra Sexual Health Centre?
<b>Supervisor name</b>	Sarah Martin <sup>1</sup> and Karin English <sup>2</sup>
<b>CHS/ACTHD position</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Director Canberra Sexual Health Centre (CSHC), Canberra Health Services (CHS)</li> <li>2. Visiting Medical Officer, CSHC, CHS</li> </ol>
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**Lead discipline (please select one)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine   | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical          | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Policy    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |   |

**Does this project involve research led by, or relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|--|

**Outline of the project (250 words max)**

The goal of this study is to determine whether B-lactam allergy listing has a detrimental impact on the delivery of best-practice management for gonorrhoea infections. B-lactam allergy listings are common. However, most of the time patients with a B-lactam allergy listing do not have a true allergy to B-lactams. B-lactam allergy listings are known to negatively impact on antimicrobial prescribing practises, patient, and healthcare service outcomes, but less is known about their impact on common sexual health conditions.

We aim to determine whether B-lactam prescribing differs for Canberra Sexual Health Centre (CSHC) patients diagnosed with a *Neisseria gonorrhoea* infection who also have a B-lactam allergy listing on their patient record. A B-lactam cephalosporin antibiotic (ceftriaxone) is the first line therapy for gonorrhoea. Other objectives are to assess whether these patients are more likely to receive alternative antibiotics, how many provide a sample for culture and how many receive a test of cure. We also aim to assess whether information collected about the B-lactam allergy (i.e., severity) influences prescribing practises.

The patient will be co-supervised by Dr. Sarah Martin (Director CSHC) and Dr. Karin English (Visiting Medical Officer CSHC, Public Health Medicine Physician). **The student will need to be available for 3 full weeks for data collection during November and early December.**

**Proposed research methods**

The study is a retrospective audit of CSHC patient records. Data will be extracted from the digital health record and SHIP (the previous electronic medical record for patients at CSHC) using automated and manual processes. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected into Excel. Data will be analysed using Excel to produce summary statistics. Depending on the sample size, additional statistical analysis may be undertaken. A manuscript will be drafted for potential publication in a peer-reviewed journal and depending on contribution, the student will be the first author on the paper.

**Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student**

Medicine

**Benefits to the student and to the department**

This study will enable CSHC to identify whether there are opportunities to improve antimicrobial stewardship within CSHC. Improved antimicrobial stewardship could contribute to improved individual patient and public health outcomes. These opportunities could include improved assessment of allergy listings or updated guidelines or resources to manage sexual health infections and conditions in patients with an allergy listing.

The student conducting this study will gain knowledge in antimicrobial stewardship, allergies, and sexual health conditions. They will gain skills in research, including data collection, collation, analysis, and interpretation. They will gain skills in drafting and submitting manuscripts for publication. They will have the opportunity to work in a team and learn about sexual health and public health medicine.

**How does this project align with any or all of the three strategic objectives of *Better Together: A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system* (100w max)**

Objective 1 (learning health system): supports staff and students to generate evidence that may support the implementation of improved anti-microbial stewardship.  
Objective 2 (research): staff experienced in research will support a medical student to undertake research, building capacity and capability.

**ACTHD/CHS Department where the student will be based**

Canberra Sexual Health Centre

**Will the student be in a patient facing role at any time during the project?**

This research is primarily non-clinical, however there will be some opportunities to participate in clinical consultation to become familiar with the management of Neisseria gonorrhoea infection.

**Will the student require access to CHS and/or ACTHD network / DHR / applications / database? If yes, please identify**

Yes, they will require access to DHR.

**Will the student require CHS / ACT Health building access? If yes, please identify**

Yes, they will require access to Canberra Hospital, Building 8 Level 4 (CSHC).

**Supervisor availability across key dates**

Friday 10 Nov – Preplacement presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-12pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes No
Placement period 10 Nov – 9 Feb Please indicate availability across this time. <i>E.g. leave over Christmas/New Year</i>	<i>Leave over Christmas (23<sup>rd</sup>/Dec to 1/January)</i>
At least two face-to-face sessions with the student each week during their 6-week placement.	Yes / No
Friday 9 Feb – Final presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-1pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes / No

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Please submit form to [health.research@act.gov.au](mailto:health.research@act.gov.au)