

2022/2023 Summer Research Project Description

Project title:	Determining Clearance Criteria for Multi-Resistant Organisms: A Scoping Review to Inform Infection Management and Prevention Strategies
Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode	<p>8 weeks, 20-36 hours per week</p> <p>The applicant is required to be onsite to complete the project however some writing can be undertaken through a negotiated remote working arrangement if required on occasion.</p>
Description:	<p>This project is a collaboration between Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Infection Monitoring and Prevention Service (IMPS; Ms Michelle Doidge CNC) and the University of Queensland School of Nursing Midwifery and Social Work. The literature review is the preliminary step in developing new clearance criteria for multi-resistant organisms using a codesign, consensus process.</p> <p>The literature review will identify current MRO clearance criteria used internationally and locally to inform the initial round of the consensus process.</p> <p>Background. Australian hospitals routinely screen for multi-resistant organisms (MRO) to prevent the spread of healthcare-associated infection. The results of positive MRO screening typically include: informing patient of their MRO, single room accommodation and contact precautions within the health care facility. These actions are associated with both negative and positive psychosocial effects, but also bring economic and human resource costs. MRO clearance, however, is a less routine practice, and practices are varied across healthcare institutions. We seek to reduce MRO burden on both the institution and patient by developing MRO clearance criteria for use across Queensland health facilities.</p> <p>The first step in this process is a literature review of current MRO clearance criteria used internationally.</p> <p>The objective of the review is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify current MRO clearance criteria used by health institutions or governing health agencies in first world countries (similar health systems) 2. Formulate recommendations for an MRO clearance criteria to progress formal development of policy documents
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	Scholars will gain skills in literature and policy searching, data extraction and analysis and be involved in the writing and co-publication of a manuscript to an infectious disease journal (e.g., Infection, Disease & Health). Students may have an opportunity to present the work at institute meetings or local seminars.

Suitable for:	This project is open to applications from students with a background in nursing (interest in infectious disease or infection prevention encouraged) looking to develop their literature synthesis and writing skills.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Jessica Schults, Senior Research Fellow Herston Infectious Disease Institute RBWH, Metro North Health
Further info:	https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/infectious-diseases-institute/ Email: j.schults@uq.edu.au