

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday February 18, 2016

NSW hospitals unite to reduce infections

A state wide program and the release of new resources and tools aimed at reducing catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) was launched today by the Clinical Excellence Commission in Sydney.

Senior doctors and nurses from across NSW gathered to learn more about the burden and impact these infections can have on patients and how to better avoid them.

A/Prof Brett Mitchell from Avondale College of Higher Education, said catheter associated urinary tract infections were a global problem. "We know that around the world urinary tract infections account for more than 20 per cent of health care associated infections. While we don't have numbers specific to local hospitals we know everyone in health care needs to be on the front foot with this issue," Prof Mitchell said.

"It's wonderful to see NSW hospitals working with the Clinical Excellence Commission to address this important issue."

The launch of the resources follows strong support for the tools during their pilot phase in 18 NSW hospitals over the past 2 years.

The pilot sites tested the tools to make sure they were practical and effective in a variety of acute clinical settings. A particularly successful pilot was held at St George Hospital, Sydney, where A/Prof Peter Taylor led a team focused on improving how and when urine specimens were taken from patients with a catheter.

"We worked hard to make sure we collected specimens correctly and when it was appropriate," A/Prof Taylor said.

"The end result was better treatment for our patients who have catheters and a substantial reduction in demand on our pathology department."

Profs Taylor and Mitchell were among a number of experts to speak at the launch of the CAUTIs Improvement Program today. Health workers from every NSW local health district attended to hear how the tools being launched by the Clinical Excellence Commission help reduce infections and improve care for patients who have a catheter during their hospital stay.

The full collection of [tools](#) is available for download.

Media contacts: Sharon Hogan CEC 0434 308 924
Maxine Brennan St George Hospital 0413 028 776