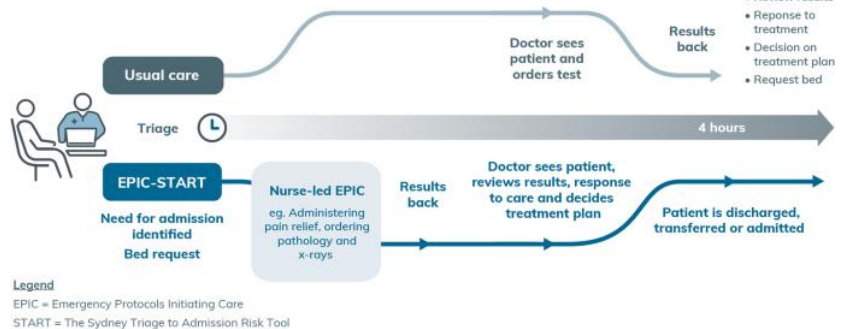


EPIC-START NEWSLETTER

EPIC-START UPDATE

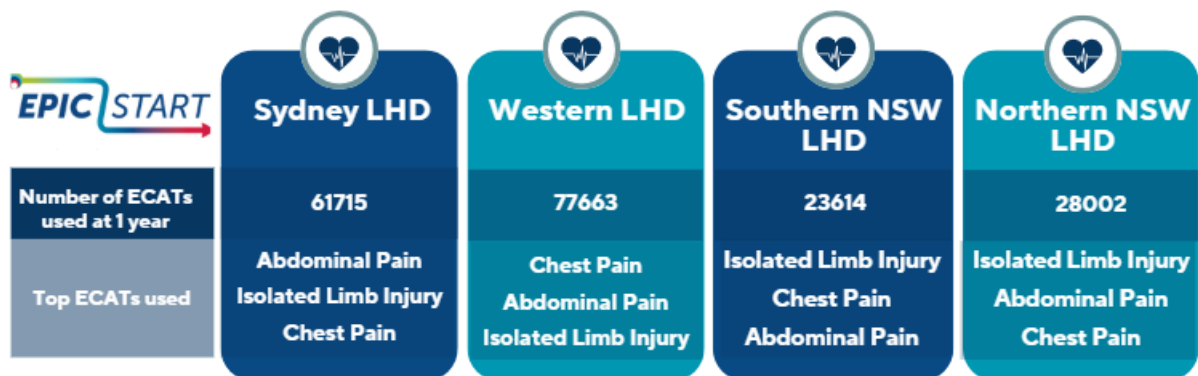
The EPIC-START study is in the evaluation phase. Thank you to the sponsors and staff who have made it possible.

EPIC-START to patient care



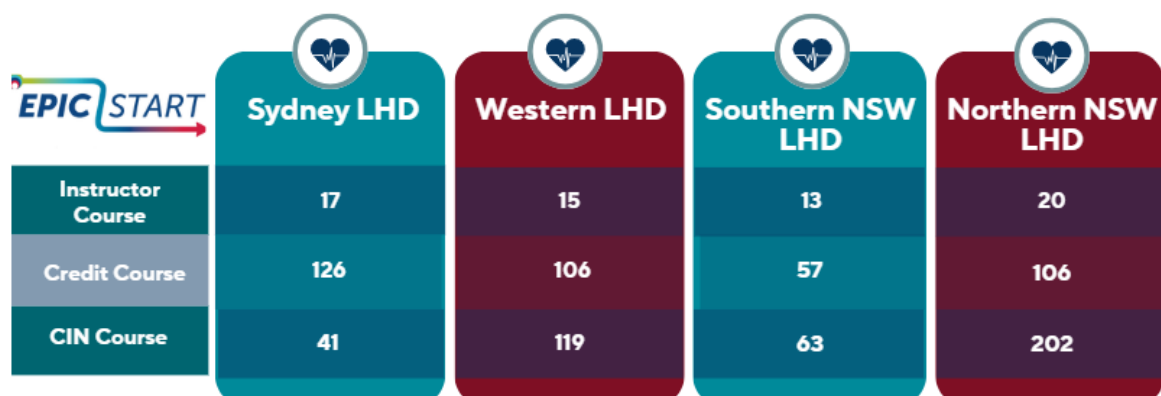
ECAT USE

In June and July 2025, all districts celebrated their one-year anniversary of ECAT. Over 190,000 ECAT protocols have been used across the four research districts.



ECAT EDUCATION

At three months post-implementation of ECAT, 885 nurses had attended one of the three education programs at 97 courses. Thank you to everyone who was involved in running the EPIC-START Education programs. Our courses are embedded in business-as-usual staff progression and professional development.



PRELIMINARY NURSING AUDIT AND SURVEY FINDINGS



1375 audits were conducted of ECAT use. The appropriateness of ECAT selection was very high (94%).

A total of 787 nurses completed implementation surveys. Preliminary findings show that nurse confidence significantly increased across all aspects of nurse-initiated care, including identifying the need to initiate nurse-led care, as well as all necessary interventions, such as pathology, radiology, and medications.



ECAT STAFF TESTIMONIAL – SYDNEY LHD

"I came on shift in the morning. It appeared to have been a busy nightshift with long wait times and many patients in the waiting room. Despite the busy department, the nightshift nurses had managed to commence treatment for all the patients in the waiting room, including pain relief, pathology and imaging orders. This meant that when the oncoming shift of doctors began, they could quickly work through the backlog of patients." - Emergency CNC, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

START

The Sydney Triage to Admission Risk Tool (START) and Early Warning Scores (EWS) are now live across research sites through the Patient Flow Portal. Patient Flow decision makers can sort patients by likelihood of admission or deterioration risk by clicking on the correlating column heading. It is a decision support tool that can help prioritise decisions, as well as show a snapshot of departmental acuity.

Triage catg	ED LOS	START SCOR	START Category	EWS	AMC
<input type="text" value="T4"/>	<input type="text" value="48 mi..."/>	<input type="text" value="29"/>	<input type="text" value="Very likely admis..."/>	<input type="text" value="5 - Medium risk"/>	<input type="text" value="BEIN"/>

CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS



Kourouche, S et al. 2025. *Identifying barriers and enablers for nurse-initiated care for designing implementation at scale in Australian emergency departments: A mixed methods study.* *Journal of Clinical Nursing* DOI: [10.1111/jocn.17693](https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.17693)



Kourouche, S et al. October 2025. *Implementation at scale – Barriers and strategies for change considering context: An implementation study in Australian emergency departments.* October 2025, 22nd International Conference for Emergency Nurses, Adelaide, South Australia.

For project team and more information, please visit: Project [EPIC-START](#)