



HIRAID® IMPROVES SAFETY FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PATIENTS

HIRAID® (History including Infection risk, Red flags, Assessment, Intervention, Diagnostics, reassessment and communication) is the only validated emergency nursing framework. HIRAID® actions the seven essential elements of safe and high-quality emergency nursing and aligns with National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

In the largest trial ever conducted with emergency nurses, HIRAID® was implemented in 29 emergency departments in NSW and Victoria, with 106,047 patients and 1,377 emergency nurses, in a stepped-wedge cluster randomised controlled trial from June 2020 to February 2024.

We now have empirical evidence that all emergency departments should implement HIRAID®

Funded by an NHMRC Partnership Grant (GNT2005403)

HIRAID® resulted in a 7.4% reduction in rapid response team calls within 72 hours of admission via ED.



This means that if HIRAID® was implemented in all EDs across Australia, there could be over 200,000* fewer patient deterioration events each year.

8.2% reduction in rapid response team calls related to emergency nursing care due to fewer delays and improved communication.

*based on ED presentations 2023-24 AIHW

2,704 emergency patients /parents/ carers said when nurses used HIRAID® their care improved* and they felt.....



staff communicated better with each other about their care;

more informed about their treatment and care;

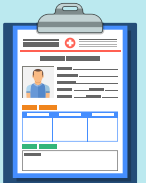
nurses saw them as an individual;

nurses provided explanation about the care they were providing.



884 reviews of initial nursing documentation demonstrated a significant improvement in all aspects of nursing documentation when nurses used HIRAID®.

Documentation of nursing care is fundamental to safe, high-quality and effective communication.



25% increase in historical, or physiological, red flags recorded related to the patient presentation.

30% increase in documentation of plans for ongoing care.

1,205 nurses were significantly more confident in their ability to communicate effectively.

HIRAID® supports consistent, high-quality assessment and communication and appropriate prioritisation in clinical practice.



"I have found it very useful as I have been learning, gives me a systematic approach and prompts me to do tasks if I'm flustered." Registered Nurse

When emergency nurses used HIRAID® clinical handover improved, specifically handover of:

historical information;

physical assessment findings;

signs of clinical deterioration.



"I believe implementation of the HIRAID® framework has significantly improved the quality of the nursing team's assessment and management of patients in the ED." ED Staff Specialist

Supporting evidence available via [The University of Sydney website](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2025.105256)

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Project Partners

The University of Sydney
Deakin University
University of Technology Sydney
Southern Cross University
Queensland University of Technology

Agency for Clinical Innovation
Australian College of Nursing
College of Emergency Nursing Australasia
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health

Southern NSW LHD
Northern NSW LHD
Western Sydney LHD
Eastern Health, Victoria
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD