

2013/2014 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 3pm on **5 July 2013**

Supervisor Information (First named supervisor will be the contact):

Supervisor's Name(s): **Dr David Cole, Dr David Jardine, Dr PleayoTovaranonte**

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Institution: Christchurch Hospital

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Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):

Clinical

Laboratory

Community

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Perioperative DVT prophylaxis in surgical patients admitted to General Medicine with PE

Project Description:

This project is a departmental retrospective audit which can be completed in 10 weeks as part of summer studentship. The selected student will learn and be involved in study design, data collection, analysis of results, and final presentation. We have already selected the patient group and the student will work with departmental staff to collect information regarding DVT prophylaxis from hospital records, drug charts, discharge summaries and operation notes. This may also require contact with General Practitioners. .

The student is expected to have basic knowledge of epidemiology, medical research and computer skills including Excel spreadsheet, Powerpoint presentation, and Microsoft Word document.

There is no active human or animal participation and ethics approval is not required as patients will be de-identified using only their hospital index numbers. Patient consent is not necessary as this is part of an internal auditing process.

Aims:

- 1) To determine the number of patients admitted to General Medicine with venous thromboembolism (VTE) which includes Pulmonary embolism (PE) or Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) in 2013 within 3 months of a surgical procedure.
- 2) To detail what peri-operative DVT prophylaxis these patients had.

Methods:

- 1) All patients who presented to CDHB as inpatients with PE or DVT during the year 2013 will be identified from the Decision Support system at Christchurch Hospital and their clinical notes will be requested. This list will be checked against a record of all positive CT pulmonary angiograms [and perfusion scans] undertaken over the same time period.
- 2) From this group we will select all patients who underwent a surgical procedure within 3 months of admission..
- 3) Clinical notes and drug charts will be reviewed whether VTE prophylaxis was considered and given.
- 4) Data from the above are collected and analysed.

Significance:

VTE is a common complication of surgical procedures. Prophylaxis with mechanical and pharmacological methods has been shown to be effective and safe in most types of surgery and should be routinely implemented. If used appropriately, such prophylaxis is cost effective because it reduces the incidence of symptomatic thromboembolic events, which require costly diagnostic procedures, prolonged anticoagulation therapy, and hospital admissions. This project will look into the pattern of VTE prophylaxis prior to surgical procedures performed in Christchurch.

Please email the completed Project Application form to: research.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Also send a signed hard copy via the internal mail to:

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