

Nurse led volunteer support interventions and a technology driven pain assessment for older adults in hospital

ACTRN12622000773730

Status RECRUITING
Sponsor Edith Cowan University
Enrollment 200 participants

Plain Language Summary

Older adults in hospital face real risks beyond their original health problem — including falls, delirium, poor nutrition, and undertreated pain. Pain can be especially difficult to assess when someone has cognitive impairment, since they may struggle to describe how they're feeling. This study at a Perth hospital tests a new model of care that combines technology-assisted pain assessment with a nurse-led volunteer support program.

The pain assessment technology used is PainChek Universal, a smartphone-based app that uses facial recognition to detect pain-related micro-expressions in people who can't self-report — offering a more objective way to spot and treat pain early. The volunteer program provides social connection, encouragement with eating, and supervision during activities to reduce falls and delirium risk.

All patients aged 65 or older admitted to the geriatric medical wards at this Perth hospital are eligible. There are no exclusion criteria. The study is non-randomised — it evaluates outcomes before and after the new care model is introduced — and is run by Edith Cowan University.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (1)

- Patients admitted to two geriatric medical wards at an acute metropolitan tertiary hospital in Perth, Western Australia.

Exclusion (1)

- Nil

Locations (1 total)

Joondalup Health Campus - Joondalup, WA, Australia