

Just Say No to the Just in Case Cannula: An Implementation Science Trial

ACTRN12623001248651

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Monash University
Enrollment	108,000 participants

Plain Language Summary

This study is tackling a common but avoidable problem in emergency departments: the routine insertion of IV cannulas ('drips') into patients who don't actually need them. Inserting an IV line 'just in case' has become a widespread habit, but it carries real risks — including infection, blood clots, and patient discomfort — and adds costs. Australian safety guidelines already recommend against unnecessary IV placement, but old habits are hard to break.

This large, multi-site implementation trial is rolling out a package of best-practice changes across nine diverse emergency departments across Australia. The goal is to reduce unnecessary cannula insertions and only place them when patients genuinely need IV access. The trial uses a 'stepped wedge' design, meaning hospitals adopt the new practices in stages over time, allowing researchers to measure the real-world impact.

The study involves adult patients (18 and over) presenting to participating emergency departments. Individual patient data is collected to measure rates of IV insertion, usage, complications, and infection. This trial has received \$2.9 million in government funding and is designed to produce evidence that can change practice across Australian hospitals.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (7)

- Each participating emergency department has met the following criteria to be enrolled in the study
- Have more than 50 adult presentations daily
- Electronic Medical Records (EMR) that allows data collection
- Health service consents to participation
- The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) accredited ED for advanced
- ... and 2 more (see full listing online)

Exclusion (3)

- ED meeting any of the following criteria will be excluded from the trial:
- Has had an active peripheral intravenous catheter (PIVC) quality improvement intervention program within the last 12 months
- Patient data (under 18 years old) and non-ED patient will not be collected for this study.

Locations (1 total)

QLD,TAS,VIC, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12623001248651>

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