

QUICA-TOUCH gains further funding

September 2008

The Mater's innovative QUICA-TOUCH (**Q**uick **I**ndividually **C**ustomised **A**ssessment using **T**ouchscreens) screening program will continue to provide a valuable service for the hospital's cancer patients having recently received another grant from the Cancer Institute NSW under the 2009 Health Services Innovations Grants Program.

The QUICA-TOUCH program, developed by Dr Kerrie Clover, Cath Adams and Assoc Prof Gregory Carter, screens for pain, psychosocial distress and common psychopathology among oncology outpatients.

Patients at the Mater have been screened on nearly 4800 occasions in a nine month period since the program was implemented last October, with patients flagged for clinical evaluation for pain, distress, or both on 1821 occasions.

"QUICA-TOUCH also allows for Cancer Care Coordinators to view their patient's results electronically and receive email notification of the results," said Dr Clover. "This means the care coordinator will know when their patient is distressed and can act quickly to implement the local referral pathway for psychosocial care."

The QUICA-TOUCH program has the capacity to be made available in sites other than the Mater and outside the Hunter New England Area Health Service boundaries via a secured internet site.

The \$92,926 grant will enable streamlining of routine screening, employment of two part-time administrative officers to assist patients and allow detailed evaluation of the program.



Above: QUICA-TOUCH administrative officer Kerrie Gleeson helps patient Ted Wilson complete a screening questionnaire before his appointment at the Medical Centre.

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