



Associate Professor Glenn Arendts at the workplace

ROVING NURSES HELP EASE THE LOAD IN WA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

The use of roving nurses to treat elderly patients in aged care homes to prevent unnecessary transfers to hospital is helping reduce the burden on emergency departments

These are the findings of research by the WA Institute for Medical Research's Centre for Clinical Research in Emergency Medicine.

Associate Professor Glenn Arendts from the CCREM said there had been a drop in transfers of patients living in aged care facilities.

"Our study showed we could reduce the number of aged care patients arriving at emergency departments by 17 percent, with no impact on health outcomes, by sending an emergency department nurse out to the patient," he said.

The research had three components. The team firstly examined how many patients were being transferred from aged care facilities to the emergency department and found 4.5 per cent of the ED workload in one major WA hospital was made up of aged care patients. Associate Professor Arendts said this number was quite high compared with findings of 1-2.5 per cent in studies in other parts of Australia and overseas.

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Revamped curriculum takes dentistry into the nano age

Dental students at the University of WA are being taught advanced technologies, some spurred by the space age, to prepare them for their future at the chairside.

Professor Paul Ichim, Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of WA's School of Dentistry, said many of the modern restorative materials were composites that could be bonded to the tooth, preventing the need to drill deeply.

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