

Executive Summary

The ESCALATION Project aimed to develop evidence based state-wide system for recognising and responding to clinical deterioration (RRCD) in WA paediatric settings inclusive of family participation and to evaluate the feasibility and factors necessary to ensure successful implementation. The objectives were:

1. To identify the evidence for core elements of an effective RRCD system
2. To understand contextual factors in WA health setting impacting on requirements for RRCD
3. To develop a set of age appropriate observation and response charts incorporating
4. evidence-based human factors principles, nurse concern, family concern that takes into consideration WA health settings requirements
5. To develop escalation of care plans that incorporate structured communication tailored to WA health setting requirements
6. To develop a uniform process for family involvement in escalation of care that meets the needs of WA families
7. To implement the RRCD system in a range of contexts in WA paediatric settings
8. To assess for feasibility and acceptability and evaluate the RRCD system
9. To understand key factors required for successful implementation

Project design, implementation and findings

The project was conducted using a mixed methods implementation design. In 2019 phase 1 involved development and initial pilot testing (4 – 12 weeks) of a proposed uniform ESCALATION System for a state-wide approach to the recognition and response to clinical deterioration in children. This report is on 2020 Phase 2 (Figure 1).

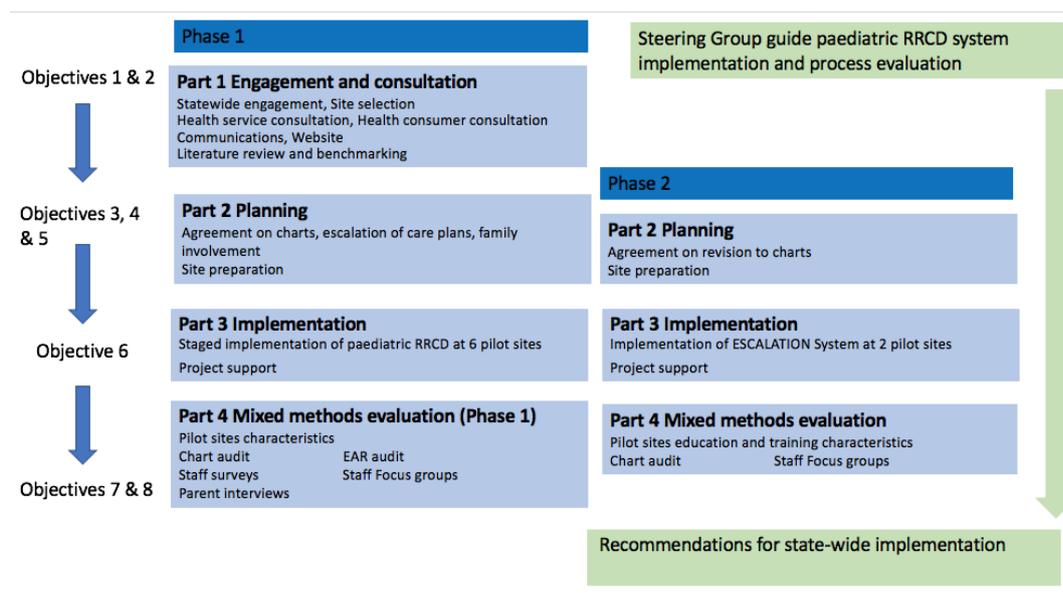


Figure 1. Phase 1 and 2 ESCALATION project design, methods and process

Phase 2 Planning

Phase 1 feedback and recommendations informed revision of charts and family posters and flyers. Sites were prepared to trial ESCALATION System v 2.0

Phase 2 Implementation

Two trial sites were Broome Health Campus and Perth Children's Hospital for testing ESCALATION System v 2.0 for six weeks.

Phase 2 Mixed methods evaluation

Mixed methods evaluation included data collection on pilot site characteristics, intervention delivery, chart audits and staff focus groups

Phase 2 Project Outcome

The project was successful in developing and trialling ESCALATION System v 2.0. It was well received with feedback to further refine for v3.0.

Recommendations

1. Revision and refinement to chart design and continued engagement with and input from stakeholders.
2. Hospital wide implementation of ESCALATION System v 3.0 at Perth Children's Hospital and Broome Hospital.
3. Dedicated staff development nurse role to provide education and support prior to and during implementation.
4. Target >80% nurses and doctors receive education.
5. Staff preparation needs to include active learning such as simulated practice, case reviews, real-time feedback, discussion.
6. Staged roll out to ensure each ward/department receives tailored support.
7. Education and feedback to emphasise correct completion of graphical observations.

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