

National Research Program

Swan Valley Community New Investigators Grant for Western Australians

Student:	Sharni Wilkes
Institute:	Chemo@home
Project title:	Pilot study of vital sign medical app in patients treated at home with chemotherapy
Disease focus:	Blood cancers
Annual Funding:	\$10,000/one year
Funding period:	2013



Project summary

Western Australian blood cancer patients are taking part in a pilot study for a new smart phone medical application.

Perth-based company, Chemo@home, is assessing the feasibility of introducing the Securafone®Health 'app' to improve the clinical care of patients receiving chemotherapy from home.

According to the study leader Sharni Wilkes, there are many benefits associated with providing chemotherapy treatment to blood cancer patients from their home. However, problems can arise when patients do not monitor their vital signs closely enough.

"Patients treated at home have to take responsibility for much of their own care, including monitoring their temperature," said Ms Wilkes.

"This is critical in blood cancer patients receiving the highly myelosuppressive chemotherapy regimens."

"If they develop an infection it needs to be treated with antibiotics quickly, so it's important they immediately report a high temperature to their health care team."

As the Securafone®Health app continuously monitors vital signs it may detect a high temperature more quickly, thus reducing the time taken to administer life saving antibiotic therapy.

The medical app can measure a patient's vital signs, send the information to a smart phone or tablet through wireless technology and then notify the health care team when parameters are exceeded.