

Measuring the Impact of Genetic Disease in the WA Population

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Aim: To measure the burden of genetic disease resulting from single gene or chromosome disorders in Western Australia as defined by cases receiving inpatient hospital care.

Method: ICD codes for single gene and chromosomal disorders were identified in consultation with relevant experts. All hospital inpatient records with these codes in any diagnosis field were extracted from the WA Data Linkage System together with any other linked hospital records for the period 1980 - 2006. The resulting dataset was analysed to determine trends in the incidence, prevalence and hospital admissions for single gene and chromosome disorders in the WA population.

Outcomes: The study will provide information on the burden of genetic disease in terms of single gene and chromosome disorders in Western Australia and the associated use of hospital services. This information will be used to inform service and policy development including the requirement for genetic testing, screening and counseling services according to demographic factors. The study will also provide data for the evaluation of genetic health services