The only three numbers you need to know in healthcare

60% of healthcare is evidence-based
30% is waste
10% is harm

New research from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) highlights the long-term endemic issues preventing the health system from providing better care to patients.

Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite, lead author and Founding Director of AIHI, says that while hospitals and the health system are innovating to meet new challenges every day, performance has flattened.

The research points to a three-pronged challenge standing in the way of progress:

- 60% of care on average is in line with evidence- or consensus-based guidelines,
- 30% is some form of waste or of low value, and
- 10% causes harm to patients.

An exploration of these issues and strategies for the future are explored in the open access BMC Medicine article “The three numbers you need to know about healthcare: the 60-30-10 Challenge” by Professors Jeffrey Braithwaite and Johanna Westbrook from AIHI and Professor Paul Glasziou from Bond University. The authors are also investigators with the NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability.
Why are surgical tools left inside a patient?

When a drain tube, vascular stent or surgical pack is wrongly left in a person's body following surgery or during post-operative care, one in six incidents is not detected for at least six-months.

New research from Macquarie University has not only identified the length of time these items known as 'retained surgical instruments' remain undetected but also the main reasons why they occur.

Read more

COVID-19 is opening up fault lines
Professor Anthony Scott and Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite wrote for MJA InSight+.

As the health care system prepares for an unprecedented test of its resilience, it is useful to begin to reflect on some of the lessons that may be learned and that may influence future reform of the health care system. While many think we have one of the best health care systems in the world, others suggest that it is not a system at all and that it could be much more integrated. Although the fault lines are deep, they usually remain ignored or forgotten about, or just seem too hard to change, until there is a crisis that opens them up for all to see.

Within the Australian health care system, there are two major fault lines that have emerged because of the coronavirus crisis which are receiving short term patches but actually require long term solutions.

Read more in MJA InSight+.

New guidance for hospitals
AIHI is proud to have contributed to the development of the new Guidance for hospitals: Classifying EMM-related adverse events and incidents with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Hospitals will be able to use this information to guide EMM-related adverse event and incident investigation and prioritise health IT-related system improvement.

Study with us

Come and study with us at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation located at Macquarie University, Sydney. We are proudly supported by the vibrant and rapidly growing Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences.

Visit our website to discover MRes and PhD scholarship opportunities.

Visit our website aihi.mq.edu.au

Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite  Prof Enrico Coiera  Prof Johanna Westbrook
The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) at Macquarie University conducts world-class research with national and international research communities, governments, policymakers, providers of health services, managers, clinicians, patients and the community. Our work underpins health reforms and systems improvement, providing new tools, perspectives and evidence to help stakeholders who are interested in making the health system more effective, efficient and productive. Our overarching aim is to produce new, high quality research evidence to support change, prevention and improvement.