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To Dr Emma Tavender, Knowledge Translation Co-ordinator/Head Injury Clinical Guideline Project Manager

By email: [emma.tavender@mcri.edu.au](mailto:emma.tavender@mcri.edu.au)

Dear Professor Babl and Professor Dalziel

### **PREDICT Australian and New Zealand Guideline for Mild to Moderate Head Injuries in Children**

I am writing to thank the Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative (PREDICT) network for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Australian and New Zealand Guideline for Mild to Moderate Head Injuries in Children. As the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) represents registered nurses, enrolled nurses and advanced practice nurses who work across a variety of health care settings. Nurses are the frontline clinicians who care for patients including for children with head injuries presenting to acute care settings.

ACN has carefully reviewed the Guideline draft which covers three areas—triage, imaging and discharge of children with mild to moderate head injuries. Regarding the triage, imaging and discharge questions, ACN agrees with the recommendations within the guideline as they are supported by evidence-based literature. The extensive literature review enables the objectives of the Guideline to be achieved which are to improve outcomes for children who present with mild to moderate head injury, identify all paediatric patients who have a clinically important intracranial injury in need of intervention, and to promote consistency of management of children with head injuries.

ACN commends this Guideline as it contains a Technical Report, Recommendations and a Clinical Algorithm incorporating the core recommendations for use by clinicians assessing a child with a head injury in an emergency department (ED). This thorough Guideline would be a useful standardisation of treatments for clinicians in treating children with head injuries in order to avoid short-term and long-term sequelae.

Nevertheless, under the heading of Von Willebrand disease or a rare coagulopathy (p. 10 and p. 82), ACN members suggests emphasising the critical factor of urgently seeking advice from the treating haematology team around risk of bleeding and management of coagulopathy. ACN members propose the sentence to be revised to *“CT scan or decision to observe must not delay seeking urgent*

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*advice from the treating haematology team around risk of bleeding and management of coagulopathy.”*

The Australian College of Nursing is a strong collective voice for nurses in all health care settings. Together, we increase the quality of patient care for all Australians. Our mission is advancing nurse leadership to enhance health care.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Dr Carolyn Stapleton FACN, Director– Policy, Strategy and Advocacy.

Yours sincerely

Dr Carolyn Stapleton FACN  
Director – Policy, Advocacy and Strategy  
Australian College of Nursing

13 August 2020

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