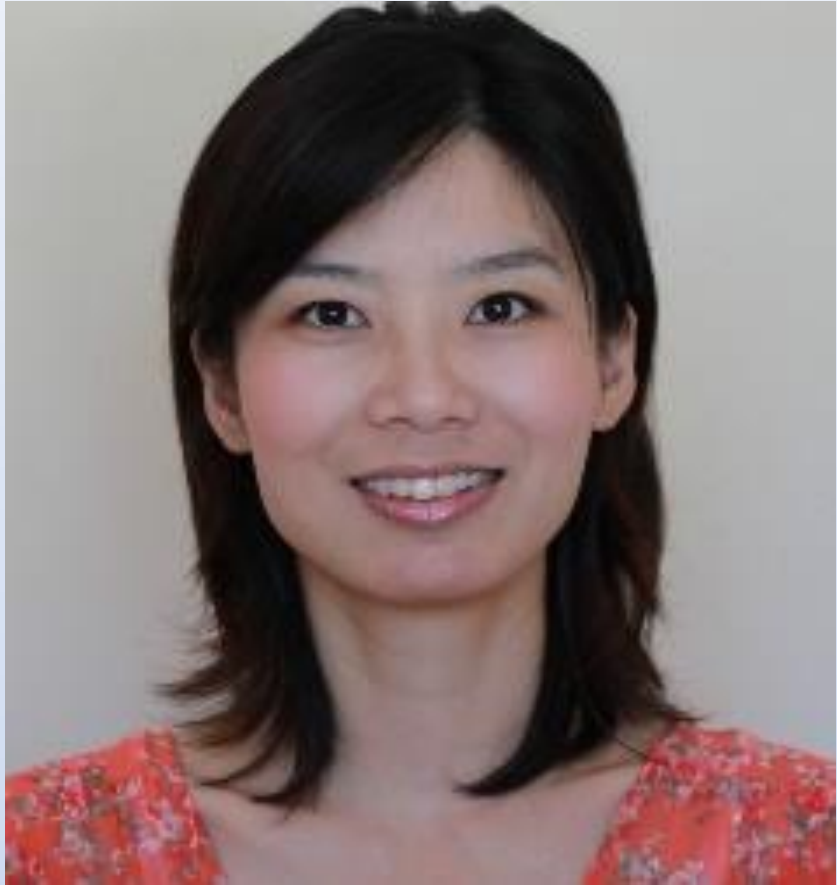




Contact author: **Dr Hui (Grace) Xu**,
Research Fellow, Nurse Practitioner
grace.xu@qut.edu.au

Unlocking PIVC Secrets

Revealing key insights from 1500 emergency department audits

Dr Grace Xu, Professor Amanda Ullman, Professor Claire Rickard

School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Emergency Trauma Centre, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital; School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, Queensland University



Background: Peripheral Intravenous Catheter (PIVC) stands out as the most frequently used invasive device within emergency departments (EDs). Notably, ED clinicians are responsible for inserting one out of every two PIVCs used in hospitals.

Aim: To comprehensively investigate the entire spectrum of PIVC care in the ED setting.

Method: A **prevalence point audit** of PIVC care was conducted across three EDs in Australia in 2022-2023. Research nurses performed **bedside audits** using a standard audit form. Documentation in the iEMR, a digital medical record system, was also audited.

Insertion

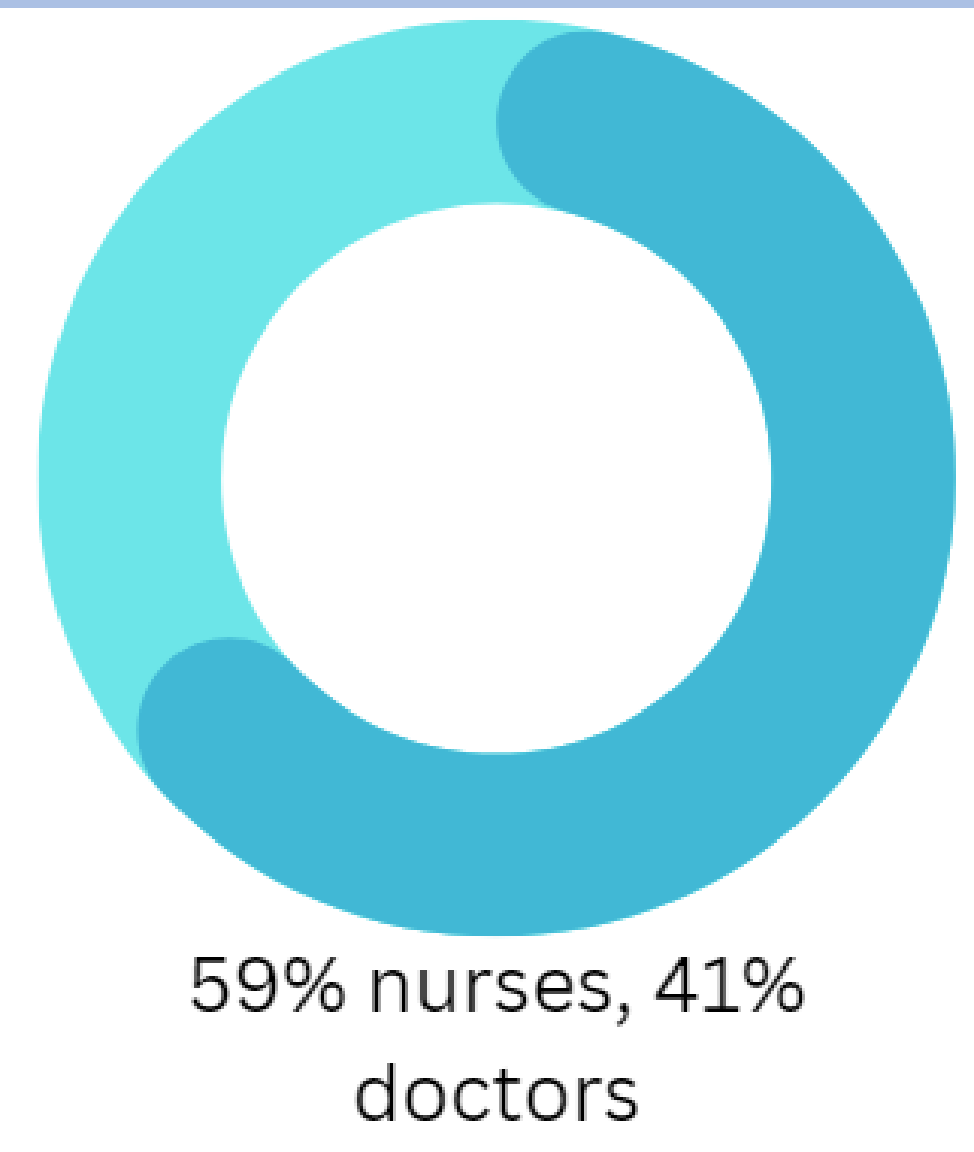
- 3% of PIVCs were inserted in emergencies.
- 85% of PIVCs were inserted at an area of **flexion** (e.g. ACF).
- 17% of insertions were identified as difficult. However, only **7% used ultrasound**.

Documentation

- 39%-59% of PIVC size/site/inserters were not documented.
- Times of insertion attempts** (58%) were **not** recorded.
- Only 3% of the removal date was recorded.

Removal

- 42%** of PIVCs were **idle catheters** (inserted but not used).
- Only 27% of PIVCs were likely to be used when transferred to an inpatient ward.



Numerous areas within PIVC care that **require improvement** to uphold patient safety and care standards in EDs. Strategies need to be implemented to address the prevalent suboptimal practices observed in ED settings