

HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL OFFERS A BETTER FUTURE

A new evidence-based assessment tool is improving health outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities.

UQ'S RESEARCH EXCELLENCE TO EXCELLENCE PLUS WITH UNIQUEST

UQ Research Strength:	Public Health and Health Services
UQ Innovator(s):	Professor Nick Lennox
UQ Faculty or Institute:	Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
UQ Research Outcome:	A simple assessment tool to assess and help improve health outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities
UniQuest IP Position:	Trademark and copyright
UniQuest Partnering:	Packaging and sales support (licensing direct)
UniQuest Commercialisation:	Sale (licensing) of CHAP questionnaire

For every member of the community ongoing and consistent healthcare is essential, but for those most vulnerable – such as the intellectually disabled – having accurate healthcare records is even more important.

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Recognising this fact, Professor Nick Lennox who is a Director of the Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability at The University of Queensland (UQ), developed CHAP - The Comprehensive Health Assessment Program.

CHAP is a tool designed to help minimise the barriers to healthcare for people with intellectual disability, by prompting regular health care checks and comprehensive assessment. The tool consists of a thorough, two-part questionnaire designed to facilitate increased interaction and constructive engagement between a patient, their carers and their doctors.

For people with intellectual disabilities a lack of accurate records and ineffective communication can lead to the breakdown of primary health care. This can then result in unrecognised or poorly managed health conditions and diseases, and inadequate or non-existent health screening, all of which come to a head in a health crisis situation.

HAVING YOUR HEALTH HISTORY HELPS

The easy-to-use CHAP questionnaire has been created in a way that requires and encourages collaboration between the person with the intellectual disability, their supporter or carer, and their general practitioner. By providing a detailed and consistent framework, it also helps doctors make better diagnoses, provide appropriate treatment and ultimately ensure a better overall health check for their patients – many of whom have higher and more complex needs.

The first step in the process is for the parents, support staff and/or the person with the intellectual disability to complete the first part of the questionnaire. Once completed this creates a comprehensive and personalised health history to date.

The health history is then taken to the person's general practitioner, where the second part of the questionnaire is completed by the doctor in consultation with the individual and their supporter. It is here that CHAPS is most valuable, as the doctor is prompted to be aware of commonly missed, poorly managed or syndrome specific health conditions.

On completion of the person's health review the doctor should have an in-depth health baseline. Then an appropriate health action plan can be agreed upon by the doctor in collaboration with those involved in providing support to the person.

CLINICAL TRANSLATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

CHAP has the potential to help reduce the gap between health outcomes for people with disabilities and the general population.

The value of this assessment tool has been widely recognised and it is currently used in Australia by the New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland and Western Australian Governments, as well as the Endeavour Foundation (Qld) and other non-government organisations. It is also being used in other countries, including the United Kingdom.

CHAP has been validated through five Australian studies and has been recognised by leading international researchers who specialise in adults with intellectual disabilities requiring both high and low levels of support.

"The CHAP study contributes to world literature by providing conclusive evidence of health gains resulting from a deliberate intervention".

Professor Eric Emerson, Centre for Disability Research, Lancaster University, UK

Since its inception by Professor Lennox in 1999, CHAP has gone from concept to product launch with the support of UniQuest, UQ's main innovation and commercialisation company. By working closely with Professor Lennox, UniQuest has enabled CHAP to be made available to a diverse range of organisations via license agreements.

PARTNER WITH UNIQUEST

UniQuest is one of Australia's leading research commercialisation companies. It specialises in global technology transfer and facilitates access for all business sectors to the world class expertise, intellectual property and facilities at The University of Queensland, Australia.

OUR TRACK RECORD

UniQuest enters into over 400 research contracts per year – many repeat clients from industry.

UniQuest has created over 70 companies from its intellectual property portfolio, and since 2000 UniQuest and its start ups have raised more than \$490 million to take university technologies to market. UQ technologies licensed by UniQuest – including UQ's cervical cancer vaccine technology and image correction technology in magnetic resonance imaging machines – have resulted in combined sales of final products in the order of \$10 billion net sales between 2007-2013.



If you want to know more about this commercialisation story or other offerings from Health and UniQuest then contact Wilma James, Senior Director – Expertise Commercialisation by mobile +61 (0)400 726 441, email w.james@uniququest.com.au or visit www.uniququest.com.au



THE CHAP JOURNEY SO FAR

Professor Nick Lennox
The University of Queensland

- The Comprehensive Health Assessment Program has been developed by Professor Lennox at The University of Queensland since 1999
- CHAP has been validated through five Australian studies
- CHAP enhances collaboration between the person with the intellectual disability, their supporter or carer, and their general practitioner
- In 2014, CHAP was used by four State Governments of Australia as well as the Endeavour Foundation (Qld) and other non-government organisations, and in the United Kingdom