



### *Issue:* **Trauma Form**

*Raised by:* Many sources

*Background:* A range of trauma forms have been in use across NT remote health centres and there has been requests for both improvements to be made and establish one form to be endorsed for NT wide use.

*Discussion:* Considerable consultation has gone into the development of a trauma form suitable for remote use. It has been extremely difficult to include the many features that have been suggested, but the resulting form is considered to be as comprehensive and yet as succinct as possible.

Effort has been made to make the form be directive in it's flow, with check boxes to act as both prompts and to speed recording of information.

The design has been limited to A3 size, despite the potential for an even larger form to capture more information. A key feature of the printing of the form will be that it will be produced with carbonless copy so that use at sites away from copying facilities will still allow retention of a copy for medical record filing (Note: carbonless copies are prone to fading over time and it would still be beneficial to photocopy the copy prior to filing in the health centre medical record).

It is recognised that the space for recording extended observations, recording of fuller fluid balance records, etc, is limited on the new form. While the trauma form retains its purpose as a one-stop form to summarise trauma information, particularly at off-site scenarios, there is obviously the opportunity to append further dedicated sheets if required. However, the intention of the trauma sheet is to avoid the use of multiple forms that complicate documentation in difficult and urgent situations.

A limited trial has confirmed the limited space of the form may be significant. It is suggested that before proceeding with the formal print run, a much wider trial is carried out, i.e. trialing the form in all DHCS Remote health centres until the end of January 2007. Feedback from all users of the form will be sought during the trial period, and will be considered in a final edition prior to printing.

*Consultation:* Extensively throughout:  
Remote Health clinical staff, Trauma and retrieval staff at ASH & RDH, AirMed, RFDS

*References:* A range of existing trauma forms

*Outcome:* **A new trauma form is released for trial by all DHCS Remote Health Centres.**

Hard copies will be circulated to all RHB Health Centres for use in a trial capacity until the end of January 2007.

At the end of the trial period the form will be reviewed and pending edits that arise will then proceed to industrial printing on carbonless copy stock.