

Ambulatory and Continuing Care News

May 2008



'Leading the way in Continuing Care' Conference – Friday 21 November

The Ambulatory and Continuing Care section will be hosting the 'Leading the way in Continuing Care' conference on Friday 21 November. The conference will be held in Melbourne CBD and will showcase the outcomes of a number of initiatives, highlighting the joint work between the Ambulatory and Continuing Care section and Victorian health services.

The conference will focus on three key areas:

1. The outcomes associated with the Pathways Home program (including the 14 capital projects, the sub-acute ambulatory care services equipment review and the Pathways Home scholarships)
2. The initiatives from *Improving care for older people: a policy for health services*
3. Innovation in service delivery.

There will be a call for abstracts for presentations and posters for the conference in June 2008.

Health Independence Programs guidelines Feedback from the field

Thank you to all health services that have provided feedback on the draft *Health Independence Programs guidelines*. The feedback is currently in the process of being collated. At this stage it appears there is both positive and constructive feedback. Where possible, there will be work done to incorporate the feedback into the final version of the guidelines.

Where it is not possible to incorporate feedback into the guidelines, there will be communication with health services that have provided the feedback to discuss the issues raised.

It is anticipated that the final version of the *Health Independence Programs guidelines* will be released in mid 2008.



Welcome Usha Mudaliar

Usha Mudaliar has made a valuable contribution to the department since commencing in November 2001, working in numerous areas such as Drugs Policy, Hospital Demand Management—elective surgery, chronic disease prevention, Programs Branch—Clinical Service Development and Ambulatory and Continuing Care.

Usha is a senior project officer with the Chronic and Complex Care team and has responsibility for the maintenance dialysis portfolio, including sharing the lead with Chelsea Simpson on the Hospital Admission Risk Program Chronic Disease Management (HARP CDM).

Prior to her time at the department, Usha worked at Swinburne University on tertiary education administration and academic development.

Away from work, Usha enjoys socialising with her husband and friends, cooking, watching movies and spends a great part of the weekend chatting to family on the phone who are living overseas.

Council of Australian Governments Long Stay Older Patients (COAG LSOP) initiative: Improving care for older people

The COAG LSOP initiative (2006–2010) is rapidly progressing towards its third year. The final two years of the initiative will shift the focus from one of planning and development to implementation.

Implementation resource toolkit: Minimising functional decline

One of the key activities continuing as part of the COAG LSOP initiative is the development of a minimising functional decline implementation resource toolkit.

Health services continue to identify a suite of tools related to specific domains that can impact on functional decline, with the support of the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) that compiles the information into an integrated toolkit.

A complex approach has been taken to developing the toolkit in which health services function as lead and partner agencies with links to representation of the regional and rural health services. The aim of this approach has provided health services in Victoria with pivotal communication avenues for sharing information and expertise across and within health services.

This ensures the relevance and applicability of the toolkit, which will be tested more generally through field testing the domain components, with support from NARI. The draft toolkit is due to be completed by NARI by August 2008.

The final presentation of the toolkit and education and communication considerations for embedding and sustaining the toolkit will be determined during the subsequent years of the initiative.

Implementation

Implementation of the draft toolkit is due to commence within health services by September 2008. Workshops undertaken with the COAG LSOP Initiative Advisory Group, executive sponsors and project officers have sought to identify some of the key issues likely to impact on its implementation. Responses from these groups will be used to guide implementation planning.

Identifying clinical indicators

The toolkit implementation commencement date of September 2008 has been set to allow enough time for the impact of the toolkit to be evaluated. To assist in this process, The Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Unit, Melbourne Health, have successfully applied to undertake identification of a set of clinical indicators relevant to the toolkit domains. The inaugural meeting of the Expert Advisory Group was convened on 28 April 2008 to progress this project, due for completion by June 2008.

Health Care for Older Australians Committee (HCOASC): publications

In response to the national action plan, *Improving care outcomes for older people: From hospital to home*, the HCOASC produced a number of key publications likely to be used during implementation of the resource toolkit. These include:

- *Age-friendly principles and practices: Managing older people in the health service environment*
- *A guide for assessing older people in hospitals*
- *Best practice approaches to minimise functional decline in the older person across the acute, sub-acute and residential aged care settings* (updated by the Victorian Government in August 2007)
- *Clinical practice guidelines for the management of delirium in older people*
- *Stroke care pathway.*

As these publications have been widely used, the federal government is currently looking at re-printing these documents. It is unlikely the hard copies will be available before June 2008 but can be accessed online via www.health.vic.gov.au/acute-agedcare

For further information on the COAG LSOP initiative please contact Tania Cossich on tania.cossich@dhs.vic.gov.au

Reminder: Health Independence Programs Forum, Friday 6 June

The second Health Independence Programs Forum for 2008 will be held on Friday 6 June. This forum is for all staff working within the Health Independence Programs: sub-acute ambulatory care services (SACS), post-acute care (PAC), Hospital Admission Risk Program Chronic Disease Management (HARP CDM) and Hospital Admission Risk Program Better Care for Older People (HARP BCOP).

The morning session (10.00am–12.15pm) will consist of updates relevant to all programs. Further information on the agenda for the forum will be available shortly. Both managers and clinicians are welcome to attend the morning session.

The afternoon session (1.00pm–3.00pm) will be for program managers and will be divided into four groups:

- SACS managers
- PAC managers
- HARP CDM managers
- rural and regional SACS and HARP meeting (including HARP BCOP)

An agenda and call for registration for the forum will be emailed shortly to managers.

These are the current contact details for the section.

The Ambulatory and Continuing Care Team contact details

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