

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development News

September 2005

What is Victoria's renal dialysis service capacity?

Hospitals have just undertaken an audit to determine the available capacity of Victoria's renal dialysis service system. While at the state-wide level there is excellent data relating to patient numbers, up to date information about satellite facilities, numbers of staff in our dialysis units and waiting lists is not as well documented.

All hospitals with a maintenance dialysis (MD) unit have been asked to complete a brief audit of their facility. The audit week was 29 August to 4 September and most hospitals have already completed and submitted their on-line survey. Data collected includes numbers of dialysis machines and chairs, numbers of patients for each treatment modality, numbers of patients on waiting lists for satellite facilities and staff numbers in each of the units.

The information collected, along with other data currently being gathered, will enable forecasting of future demand at both the state and local level. This, in turn, will facilitate a more proactive approach to service provision and workforce planning.

Further information about Victoria's maintenance dialysis program is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/renaldialysis.htm.

Victorian NPEP Service launched

A state-wide Non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (NPEP) program for people exposed to HIV was officially launched on 10 August 2005. The Victorian HIV Service at The Alfred will manage the program.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is the use of antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV infection in individuals exposed to the virus. NPEP refers to the use of PEP outside the occupational setting, principally arising from sexual exposure or from injecting drug use. NPEP is officially recommended after high-risk exposures to HIV.

NPEP has been available in Victoria in a limited capacity for some time, but access was confined to those people who could be treated at the Victorian HIV Service at The Alfred. NPEP is now also available at selected GP clinics and the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. There are plans for NPEP to be available in rural areas by the end of 2005.

People who believe they may have been exposed to HIV can access a website which gives them information about NPEP or call 1800 889 887 to talk to a nurse at The Alfred. As it is important that people needing NPEP are able to access the drugs as soon as possible, the service will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Introducing Joan Snyder

Joan joined the Branch in November 2004 to work in the Sub-acute In-patient Services team.

Her primary focus in recent months has been on a review of services provided Victorian Respiratory Support Service for people chronic ventilatory failure. Other areas of work include issues relating to the development of appropriate and accessible services for people with complex needs.

With qualifications in social work and social administration, Joan's career has provided her with wide-ranging experience in direct service, program and policy development roles across a number of human services areas, both in Victoria and the UK. Within the Department of Human Services, Joan worked in Disability Services, Child Protection, Family and Children's Services, Aged Care and correctional programs.

Joan says she particularly enjoys the Branch's team-based approach to problem solving and policy and program development and working with colleagues who are committed to improving services and outcomes for individuals.

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Current data shows that the numbers of new HIV cases are rising. In 1999, the number of new cases was 140, by 2004 this had risen to 217, an increase of 35 per cent over the five years. NPEP is one of a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the numbers of newly acquired HIV infections however, safe sex remains the best prevention against acquiring HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

For further information go to www.getpep.info

Rehabilitation after stroke literature review: Current evidence and future directions

The Stroke Care Strategy identified that there was a need to undertake a review of the evidence on best practice guidelines for stroke management in the sub-acute setting. National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) was engaged to undertake a review of the current Australian and international literature to identify best practice in the delivery of stroke care in sub-acute settings (inpatient and ambulatory). The focus of this work was on service delivery models in the sub acute sector, not best practice models for delivery of individual therapy. NARI was also requested to consider the interface between the acute and sub-acute settings.

This work has now been completed and can be found on the Stroke Review website page at www.health.vic.gov.au/strokecare

Developing a Stroke Care Strategy for Victoria

A Stroke Care Strategy for the delivery of acute and sub-acute stroke services in Victoria is being developed.

A Discussion Paper has been distributed and provides the basis for consultation that will inform development of the Strategy and poses questions for stakeholder feedback. The deadline for making submissions in response to these questions is Friday 16 September 2005.

Submissions can be made through an online survey, by post or by attending one of the eight provider and two consumer/carer forums throughout metropolitan and rural Victoria.

The forums enables health care providers (clinicians, support staff and administrators), and people who have had a stroke and their carers, with the opportunity for input into the development of the Strategy. Provider forums have already been held at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Geelong, Shepparton and Ballarat. Further forums will take place at the following locations:

Provider Forums (all 4.00–7.00 pm)

Metropolitan

Monday 12 September 2005

Lecture Theatre 2, Monash Medical Centre, 246 Clayton Rd, Clayton.

Thursday 15 September 2005

Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Rural

Tuesday 13 September 2005

Century Inn, RMB 5920 Princes Highway, Traralgon.

Wednesday 14 September 2005

Shamrock Hotel, Cnr Pall Mall and Williamson Street, Bendigo.

Consumer/Carer Forums

Metropolitan

Monday 12 September 2005, 10.00am–1.00 pm, Department of Human Services, Conference Room A, Level 12, 555 Collins St, Melbourne.

Rural

Wednesday 14 September 2005

10.00am–1.00 pm, Shamrock Hotel, Cnr Pall Mall and Williamson Street, Bendigo.

More information, including links to the Discussion Paper and the online survey, are available at www.health.vic.gov.au/strokecare/ or by contacting Paul Fennessy on 9616 2142 or paul.fennessy@dhs.vic.gov.au.

For further information, or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Coralie Kennedy on coralie.kennedy@dhs.vic.gov.au



Department of
Human Services