

Continuing Care newsletter

November 2004

Services for young adults with complex medical needs

The Review of Paediatric Services, undertaken in 2002, identified that some groups of young adults with complex medical needs had difficulties transitioning from the paediatric to the adult health care sector. In response to this, a Working Party has been formed to facilitate the development of services for the transition of young adults with spina bifida and cerebral palsy. Approximately 15 patients, who receive their care at the Royal Children's Hospital, will transfer to participating health services during the six-month project. It is expected that, once services are established, more young adults will transfer from the Royal Children's Hospital to them in the future.

The Working Party includes clinicians from St Vincent's Health and Melbourne Health, who are working to establish outpatient services for these patient groups; clinicians from the Monash Medical Centre, who have developed a successful model for such services; a clinician from the Bendigo Healthcare Group, providing a rural perspective; and representation from the Continuing Care, Hospital Demand Management and Disability areas within the Department.

For more information contact Adina Hamilton on 9616 1332 or adina.hamilton@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Falls and pressure injury prevention projects

A range of projects funded by the department under the Quality Improvement Framework have recently been finalised. Two of these are:

Bayside falls prevention

The successful components of this project were:

- Implementation of a multi-strategy falls prevention program across the acute and sub-acute settings;
- Development and implementation of the Bayside falls prevention guidelines and protocols; and
- Development and implementation of an operation observation falls prevention strategy to increase the observational capacity of nursing staff on the ward.

Those wanting to learn more, please contact Jenny Cook at j.cook2@cgmc.org.au.



Introducing Coralie Kennedy

For many of you who work in the Community Rehabilitation Centres (CRC) and specialist clinics, it is likely you have had contact with Coralie Kennedy.

Coralie receives all the data from the forty-six CRC's and nineteen specialist clinics around Victoria. Coralie does a visual check on the data, runs error queries and provides feedback to agencies on the submitted data. Coralie also provides administrative support to members of the Unit, such as assisting with meetings and forums and managing our ever-expanding newsletter mailing list.

As Coralie has worked for the department for over eight years, she holds a lot of corporate knowledge and corporate history about the organisation and is a good person to ask who in the Department might manage a particular program. She is also a good person to know as she refills a large jar of lollies that sits on her desk for those of us who need a sugar boost. For those who love a good read, Coralie has generously got a great supply of books for borrowing at any time!

Pressure injury prevention program

This project resulted in key improvements such as:

- Collection of data on point prevalence at a number of sites, along with identification of existing policies on pressure injury prevention;
- Development and piloting of evidence based guidelines including a multimedia, interactive programme for ongoing staff education;
- Piloting of a systematic approach to prevention in an acute hospital; and
- Introduction of the systematic approach to risk assessment, pressure injury prevention and ongoing quality audit in three major hospitals and two nursing homes.

Those wanting to learn more, please contact Professor Colin Torrance at colin.torrance@vu.edu.au.

Final report of grief and bereavement review now available

The final report of the grief and bereavement review is now available from the Continuing Care website (<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/grief.htm>).

The report includes the recommendations of the review that was recently conducted of the state-wide grief and bereavement services funded by the department. It also contains a proposed framework for the future development of grief and bereavement services in Victoria.

As a result of the review, Mercy Western Grief Service will continue to provide counselling services in the western part of North and West Region. Discussions are currently underway with the Community Bereavement Service, the Centre for Grief Education and the National Association for Loss and Grief, Vic. to finalise their roles in the service system.

If you have any queries or problems downloading the report, please contact Amanda Bolleter on 9616 2115 or amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au.

A date for the diary – Sub-acute provider forum

Planning is well underway for the next Sub-acute provider forum. In response to feedback from the field, the subject for discussion at this event will be caring for people with cognitive impairment including dementia and delirium. The forum will be held on Tuesday 30 November at the Department of Human Services, 555 Collins Street Melbourne from 10.30am.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol Pyke at carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au.

National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) seminar series

The National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) hosts a weekly seminar on issues affecting older people. Topic areas include social issues related to ageing, health promotion, public health and nutrition, injury prevention, Clinical Geriatrics, Geriatric Therapeutics, Gerontology, services development and advances in medical research with a particular focus on the elderly. The seminar program includes guest speakers and presentations from NARI staff and students on current and completed research projects.

The seminar program can be accessed via NARI's website at:

http://www.nari.unimelb.edu.au/seminar_series.htm

The seminars are held at the NARI seminar room (building 9), via Gate 4, 34-54 Poplar Rd, Parkville (opposite CSL). There is reliable access to parking.

Further information can be obtained from the seminar convenor, Dr Bruce Barber, on tel: 03 8387 2324 or email b.barber@nari.unimelb.edu.au

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

Comprehensive Assessment Tool Update

The final report into the identification of an existing, validated, comprehensive assessment tool was recently submitted by the Lincoln Centre for Ageing and Community Care Research, La Trobe University. The report is currently being considered by the Cross Divisional Working Party. The report along with the department's response and an outline of key next steps is expected to be available by the end of this calendar year.

For additional information please contact Belinda Gilsenan on 9616 1313 or email Belinda.Gilsenan@dhs.vic.gov.au

Evaluation of home-based rehabilitation in Victoria

Home-based rehabilitation was evaluated by the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) in 2003-04. This evaluation complements the development of the Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS) Framework, currently under development.

The study found that clients and carers require a mix of hospital, home and centre-based rehabilitation so that their needs and preferences at each phase of the rehabilitation continuum can be met. Client outcomes were found to be positively related to the intensity of therapy provided and that a step-down approach to rehabilitation improved outcomes. The findings from this study will inform the SACS policy direction.

Eight rehabilitation teams and 164 clients from across Victoria participated in this evaluation. We would like to thank of those who participated in the study. We are aware of the significant burden created by the additional data collection requirements and appreciate the time and effort involved. The full report of this project is available on the following website: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/concare.htm>.

Placements commence in palliative care

Nurses from residential aged care services are among the first 21 participants to undertake a placement in specialist palliative care services through the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA). The first placements of 10 days each will commence on 1 November. Twenty palliative care providers have generously agreed to act as host sites for placements. More placements will occur early in the new year.

Falls review sheds light

A review of data relating to falls clinic clients was collected from fourteen of the sixteen Victorian falls clinics over a six-month period. Evaluation of this data provided interesting insights into the demographics of falls clinic clients, the reason(s) for referral and identification of who are the main referrers.

The review examines the outcome measures and assessment tools used and sought feedback about their ease of use from falls clinic practitioners. Major types of interventions recommended such as exercise, medication review and the review of home hazards were also identified. The review found that assessment and implementation of appropriate interventions has a positive impact on reducing falls and significant injuries, as did compliance to the recommended interventions. The report can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute under **What's New**.

More details on the specifics of the project can be obtained by contacting Ms Kirsten Black at k.black@nari.unimelb.edu.au

We would like to acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by the NARI project team of Dr Keith Hill and Ms Kirsten Black and the input and support of the Project Steering Committee.