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ACA welcomes all members to the first issue of the HITH News for 2008. For those interested in disease management please note the dates for the **2008 National ADMA Conference** are September 4th and 5th. The conference will be held in Sydney please check the website at www.adma.org.au for further details.

The ACA website is currently being updated so we would appreciate any feedback and suggestions in particular any changes and additions to the currently listed HITH programs and any information on current research projects.

Just as a reminder the annual ACA membership subscriptions are now due for 2008/09. The membership form can be downloaded from the website and faxed to ACA on 03 9076 6901.

We would very much appreciate any contributions to this Newsletter from HITH programs on new initiatives or any information that may be relevant to other programs.

The ACA Team
(Kaylene, Marion, Lisa)

Updates

Emergency Management of Anaphylaxis in the Community

An Emergency Management of Anaphylaxis Wall Chart that includes how to recognise the clinical features of anaphylaxis and information on acute management is available from Australian Prescriber 2007, Vol 30. No 5 or www.australianprescriber.com.

New Criteria for the use of Intravenous Immunoglobulin

The document "*Criteria for the Clinical Use of Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) in Australia*" (the Criteria) has been developed to assist clinicians and transfusion medicine professionals to identify the conditions and circumstances for which the use of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) is appropriate and funded under the National Blood Agreement. The criteria supersede the 2000 AHMAC IVIg Guidelines.

From 3 March 2008 only the conditions that satisfy the criteria will be subsidised under the National Blood Agreement. For those conditions, treating clinicians should continue to order IVIg from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Victoria (ARCBS-Vic) in the usual way.

www.health.vic.gov.au/hospitalcirculars/circ08/circ0808.pdf

Criteria for the Clinical Use of Intravenous Immunoglobulin in Australia:

www.nba.gov.au/ivig/pdf/criteria.pdf

Quick Reference Guide: www.nba.gov.au/ivig/pdf/criteria-grg.pdf

Canadian Adverse Reactions Newsletter -January 2008

The latest newsletter includes reports of myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular and thrombotic adverse effects associated with intravenous immunoglobulin. www.healthcanada.gc.ca/carn

NSW Health Priority F5

Reducing avoidable hospital admissions through early intervention and prevention.

Target:

- Reduce hospital admissions for people who should not need to come to hospital by 15% over five years
- Reduce rate of hospital admissions by 15% for Aboriginal people who have conditions that can be appropriately treated at home.

Recent Actions

Establish standardised reporting and recording of CAPC services within NSW to assist in the monitoring of the Avoidable Admissions Strategy.

Sustainable Access Plans have been developed, with an emphasis on building capacity within the acute setting. They have focused on the increase in volume of CAPAC services so as to improve performance specifically around the target for "Priority F5: Reduced avoidable hospital admissions."

NSW Health has expanded its 'Health Care at Home' services to better manage the frail elderly and those with chronic disease. There is specific emphasis on strategies to manage people at home for conditions amenable to home visits by treating nurses, packages of care to speed up transfer of patients from hospital back into the community, and augmenting the

delivery of rehabilitation for patients with chronic disease.

Establishment of "HealthOne NSW" services to improve patient care by focusing on keeping people well and out of hospital through prevention of disease and ill health, early intervention strategies and continuing care for people with chronic illness.

www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/index.aspx?id=2c8a4632-8729-4dea-b4ee-b32cd9935e26

Updated Victorian Government Health Information Website on HITH

The updated website at www.health.vic.gov.au/hith/index.htm includes a link to the archives for additional historical information about the Hospital in The Home program, including information about costing studies, audits and development projects.

Presentations from the 2007 CAPAC HITH Conference

The presentations from last years conference can be accessed from the ACA website under the subheading Seminars:

www.health.vic.gov.au/aca/hithsem1007/index.htm

Recent requests from the HITH Chat Line

The most recent queries that we received include requests for information on the following:

- Request for a patient satisfaction survey
- Security for staff providing a 24 hour service
- Extreme heat policy for community visits
- Requirements for carer for patients managed for endocarditis
- Training of staff to deal with phone triage and guidelines for new staff on overnight call
- Administration of IV frusemide
- Observations for community nurses attend patients with cellulitis or pneumonia
- Equipment required for HITH
- Blood transfusions in HITH

Registered Clinical Trials

Hospital at home care in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): a randomised controlled study on the associated health economy and disease-related quality of life - Dr Torbjørn Haugen, Norway.

Hypothesis: Three days of hospital at home care in mild to moderate

exacerbations of COPD is cost saving in the Norwegian health care system and implies at least the same level of disease-related quality of life as traditional hospital care. Follow up for both groups: After 6 weeks, 6 months and 12 months.

See: www.controlled-trials.com/ISRCTN36101176/

Upcoming Conferences

National Association for Home Care & Hospice

6-9 April 2008
Washington, USA

W: www.nahc.org/

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing 2008 Annual Conference

17-20 April 2008
Chicago, USA

W: www.aaacn.org/

26th Annual Visiting Nurse Association of America Meeting

30 April – 2 May 2008
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

W: www.vnaa.org/

7th National Australian Wound Management Association Conference - Dreams, Diversity, Disasters

7-10 May 2008
Darwin Entertainment Centre and Holiday Inn, NT

W: <http://www.awma.com.au/conferences/conference.php>

2008 Heart Failure Course

7-8 August 2008
The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane

W: www.health.qld.gov.au/heart_failure/pdf/flyer_2day_tpch.pdf

ADMA National Conference: Evaluating Disease Management!

4-5 September 2008
Sydney

W: www.adma.org.au

11th Intravenous Nursing New Zealand Conference- Port of Entry

10-12 September 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand

W: www.ivnnz.co.nz

Infusion Nurses Society

14-16 November 2008
St. Louis, Missouri, USA

W: www.ins1.org/mtgs_ed/2006_nait/index.html