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Welcome to the last edition of the HITH Newsletter. Over the last 5 years we have continued to operate ACA and provide basic services using the limited funding we have raised from memberships and sponsorship. We would like to thank all the members and Baxter for their support over the past 12 years. Due to our limited resources we have decided to focus on chronic disease management henceforth and will no longer provide hospital in the home resources though please feel free to contact us if you have any specific HITH related queries.

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Final ACA Hospital in the Home Seminar

Join us on Monday July 13th between 1.30pm -4.30pm at the AMREP Seminar Room, Ground Floor, Alfred Health, Commercial Rd Melbourne 3004. Speakers include: Dr Alexander Padiglione, A/Prof Geoff Sussman, Joanne Maple and an executive from the HITH Society (Australasia). For Registration form or further information e-mail aca@alfred.org.au

Australian News

Management of COPD exacerbations

A section on Home Management is included in the COPD-X guidelines.

"Up to a quarter of carefully selected patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with acute exacerbations of COPD can be safely and successfully treated at home with support from respiratory nurses."

Source: www.copdx.org.au/guidelines/exacerbations.asp

Hospital in the Home Review 2009

The Department of Human Services has commenced a review of Hospital in the Home (HITH) services across Victoria.

The HITH Programs have been in operation for fifteen years, and bring a range of benefits to both patients and health services, including reduced length of stay in hospital, improved flow through hospital beds, and improved outcomes for patients cared for in their own home environment. In that time there has been no formal review of the HITH Program.

The main objectives of the review are to:

- Review the current HITH Programs to evaluate role and function, referral processes, funding models, workforce issues, medical governance arrangements, guidelines and data systems;
- Develop recommendations for future directions of HITH Programs to ensure that they deliver person-centred health care, and are equitable across Victoria;
- Review the literature and models of HITH care, both nationally and internationally, to identify practices which may improve the patient experience receiving hospital care at home;
- Explore the admission avoidance and diversion role of HITH, in conjunction with the residential in reach pilot for the winter demand strategy;
- Review the current relationships of the HITH Program with other health independence programs, such as Post Acute Care (PAC), Sub-acute Services (SACS) and Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) that provide access to post-hospital and/or preventative supports to identify opportunities to ensure that the right care is being provided in the right place and at the right time by the right team;
- Review the relationships between HITH programs and the inter-HITH referral processes and catchments;
- Outline new service delivery model if indicated by the findings, to ensure alignment and appropriate delivery of HITH services.

It is planned that the review will conclude in December 2009.

The Department has developed an interim Advisory Group for the tenure of this project, and is working with HITH Program Managers to facilitate the review process. This has involved meeting with Program Managers and developing a regular discussion forum.

For more information regarding Hospital in the Home please visit <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hith/> or contact Joanne Mapes on telephone (03) 9096 1332 or at Joanne.Mapes@dhs.vic.gov.au

National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC)

The Hospital in The Home Society submission to the NHHRC can be accessed at:

[http://www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/451/\\$FILE/451%20-%20SUBMISSION%20-%20Hospital%20in%20the%20Home%20Society%20NSW.pdf](http://www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/451/$FILE/451%20-%20SUBMISSION%20-%20Hospital%20in%20the%20Home%20Society%20NSW.pdf)

Reference

Guidelines for Paediatric Home Health Care by the American Academy of Paediatrics. 2nd Edition. Elk Grove Village, IL. American Academy of Paediatrics 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1-5811-0197-3.

This book received a favourable review by Dr Myles Abbott in the March 11 edition of JAMA.

Recent HITH Line information requests

The most recent queries we received from members and other staff working in HITH include requests for information on the following:

- Patient Consent Forms
- Nurses assessing and inserting PICC lines
- Emergency department to HITH Heart Failure Programs
- Nurse practitioners working in HITH
- Hyperemesis gravidarum

Thank you to everyone who provided responses.

Upcoming Conferences 2009

IIR 9th Annual Hospital in the Home Conference

17-18 June, 2009

Bayview Eden, Melbourne

W: <http://www.iir.com.au/>

ADMA 2009 National Conference

Working Together to Bridge the Gaps in Disease Management

3-4 September, 2009

Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

W: www.adma.org.au

23rd Annual Vascular Access Scientific Meeting

15-17 September 2009

Las Vegas, USA

W: www.avainfo.org/website/article.asp?id=207432

HITH Society Australasia Hospital in the Home 2009 - Annual Conference

5-6 November, 2009

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

W: www.archi.net.au/events/upcoming/hith2009

Infusion Nurses Society (INS) National Academy of Infusion Therapy

13-15 November 2009

Jacksonville Florida, USA

W: www.ins1.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289

National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) Annual Conference & Exposition

12-15 April, 2010

Dallas, Texas, USA

W: www.nhianet.org/education/index.cfm

Infusion Nurses Society (INS) Annual Meeting

15-20 May, 2010

Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA

W: www.ins1.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289