



Baxter

Corporate Sponsor

Welcome to the 2008 winter edition of the Newsletter. If you have called our offices recently you may have noticed that we have recruited a new part-time staff member this year. Pela Stoforidis is assisting us with ACA and ADMA as Marion scales down in preparation for semi-retirement.

ACA has decided not to run a HITH conference this year as there are already two conferences in 2008: The IIR conference on the 25th-27th of June in Melbourne and the Hospital in the Home (HITH) NSW Society conference on the 7th of November in Sydney [deadline for abstracts 31 July]. We may however still hold an afternoon HITH Nurses Seminar in 2008 if there is a strong demand. Let us know if you or your colleagues are interested in attending a half day seminar on HITH and what areas or topics you would like included. Feedback on the seminar can be forwarded to aca@alfred.org.au.

For those interested in disease management **the 2008 National ADMA Conference** will be held on September 4th and 5th at the Intercontinental in Sydney. Further information is available on the ADMA website (www.adma.org.au).

If you know of any new initiatives or information that would be relevant to HITH we would very much appreciate you letting us know or writing a short article for the next HITH News.

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Updates

NHMRC and ACSQHC Join Forces to Tackle Blood Clot Risk

A new national program to reduce the risk of potentially lethal blood clots developing in private hospital patients was launched in Canberra on 28 May by the Hon Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing.

The new Private Hospitals VTE Prevention Program will draw on the highly successful Stop the Clot program implemented by the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) in more than 40 Australian public hospitals to improve the assessment and management of venous thromboembolism. The program is funded by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

As part of this program, 40 private hospitals will be given extensive training and resources to support these changes over the next 12 months.

A key feature of the Stop the Clot program is its use of a world-first whole of hospital approach to minimising the risk of blood clots. At risk patients are identified and managed throughout their hospital stay from admission to discharge, and even post-discharge. Simple management measures, such as the use of blood thinning drugs and compression stockings are used for at risk patients across all departments, and can have a big impact on patient outcomes.

Hospitals participating in the Stop the Clot program are supported by NICS to identify the key issues required to systematically integrate best practice guidelines into routine hospital care.

With the support of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, NICS is now recruiting private hospitals with 50 or more acute, inpatient beds to take part in the new program.

For further information on the Private Hospitals VTE Prevention Program e-mail maggie.reid@nhmrc.gov.au or download an information pack and application form from www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics

Victorian Community Care Nurses (VCCN) SIG

This Special Interest group seeks to provide networking opportunities for nurses working in a wide variety of community care systems eg Community Palliative Care, District Nursing, Hospital in the Home, and Post Acute Care.

For further information: www.anfvic.asn.au/sigs/topics/9065.html

INS Position Paper

This US position paper discusses the role of the registered nurse in the insertion of External Jugular Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (EJ PICC) and External Jugular Peripheral Intravenous Catheters (EJ PIV)

The March 2008 position paper is accessible from their website: www.ins1.org/files/public/INS_Position_Paper.pdf

ReACH - Use of QI Strategies by US Home Care Agencies May Reduce Hospitalizations of Home Patients

Patient risk identification tools and other quality improvement (QI) strategies have the potential to address care transition problems and reduce acute care hospitalizations (ACHs) among home care patients, suggests an evaluation of the Reducing Acute Care Hospitalization (ReACH) National Demonstration Collaborative. The Collaborative provided risk identification tools and QI strategies, as well as assistance from ReACH staff and 16 QI organizations to help 177 home health agencies throughout the United States reduce ACHs among home care patients.

Some of the QI strategies used included implementing patient risk assessment procedures, introducing or increasing telemonitoring of patients at home, instituting emergency care plans with patient-focused recommendations, and frontloading visits for patients at greatest risk.

For further information: www.ahrq.gov/research/jun08/0608RA29.htm

The ReACH national demonstration collaborative: Early results of implementation by Drs. Boyce and Feldman, *Home Health Care Service Quarterly* 2007; 26(4):105-120.

Relevant US Websites

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT):

idlinks.com/opat/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

League of Intravenous Therapy Association: www.lite.org/links.htm

Association for Vascular Access: www.avainfo.org/

National Home Infusion Association (NHIA): www.nhianet.org/

Recent HITH Chat Line information requests

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

- Determining appropriate HITH staffing levels.
- Legalities of self-administration by HITH patients: Do any HITH Programs allow patients to make up their own IV antibiotics and self administer either as a bolus or via a volumetric pump.
- Are patients with Pulmonary Embolus allowed to self-administer without a HITH nurse visit.
- Do anaphylaxis policies in HITH include information on overnight storage of anaphylactic kits.
- Models of care and services delivered via HITH.
- Do guidelines for the use of the VACC pumps include the length of time the system stays on the patient.
- Information on the HITH management of urinary tract infections.
- Sharps containers for HITH.
- Direct admissions to HITH.

- Needle-stick injury policies in HITH.
- Use of satellite monitoring or other system for monitoring staff duress.

Upcoming Conferences

IIR: 8th Annual Hospital in the Home 2008

25-27 June 2008

Bayview Eden, Melbourne

W: www.iir.com.au/HITH

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

Intercontinental, 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.ivnznz.co.nz

HITH Society (NSW) 1st Annual Scientific Conference: Substitution Revolution: Pioneering Care in the Home

7 November 2008

Swiss Grand, Bondi, NSW

W: www.archi.net.au/events/current/hith08

Infusion Nurses Society: National Academy of Infusion Therapy

14-16 November 2008

Hyatt Regency, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

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

NHIA Annual Conference & Exposition

1-5 March 2009

Baltimore

W: www.nhianet.org/