



## **Baxter**

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Welcome to the 2008 Spring edition of the Newsletter.

Just a reminder that Hospital in the Home (HITH) NSW is holding their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Hospital in the Home Society Conference titled "**Substitution Revolution: Pioneering Care in the Home**" on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at Bondi Beach in Sydney.

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.

Sadly the ACA staff will be saying goodbye to Marion Osborn in the next few weeks as she has decided to retire. We wish her all the best.

*The ACA Team  
(Kaylene, Marion, Lisa, Pela)*

## International News

### Canadian Home Care and IT

A report generated by the Canadian Home Care Association and entitled Integration through Information Communication Technology for Home Care in Canada has recently been published. It is a comprehensive report that contains nine recommendations that arose from the cross-Canada consultations and discussions involving hundreds of home care leaders. The over-riding message is that there needs to be a re-alignment of focus on information technology to the community where Canadians experience the majority of their health care. Governments increasingly recognize the value of home care in meeting the health needs of an aging population and the role it plays in relieving pressure on hospital beds and emergency rooms. However, the report findings identified that there has not been a shift in strategic thinking and funding decisions related to technology to adequately support this vital sector of health care.

The full report can be downloaded from <http://www.cdnhomecare.ca/>

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## **Compression Stockings Incorrectly Used in 29% of Patients**

An original study, published in the September issue of the American Journal of Nursing (AJN), revealed that graduated compression stockings were used incorrectly in 29% of the patients and sized incorrectly in 26% of the patients.

These stockings play an important role in preventing the formation of deep vein clots that can result in pulmonary complications and death.

Dr Elizabeth H. Winslow the lead author said "problems with the use and sizing of graduated compression stockings are common throughout the country and this study is one of the first to systematically analyse the problems and recommend ways to improve practice". She recommended that knee-length stockings be the standard length used and that the education of nurses and patients about the proper use of stockings be improved.

This study and previous research found that problems with use and size were more common with the thigh-length stockings and in overweight patients. More patients who had thigh-length stockings found them uncomfortable than did those who had knee-length stockings, and 20% of patients did not understand the stockings' purpose. This lack of understanding may play a role in patients not wearing them correctly

Many studies conducted over the past three decades have shown that graduated compression stockings, used alone or in combination with other external compression devices or medications, significantly reduce the rate of deep-vein thrombosis in post-surgical patients. Research conducted in the 1980s and 1990s suggested that thigh-and knee-length compression stockings are equally effective in reducing deep-vein thrombosis but there are few recent studies.

The improper use and sizing of these stockings and the deficiencies in patient education are important health care issues.

## **Thrombosis risk: Comprehensive Thrombosis Guidelines Published**

New recommendations on antithrombotic and thrombolytic therapy from the American College of Chest Physicians have been published. The 900-page document contains the most comprehensive advice to date on the prevention, treatment, and long-term management of thrombotic disorders. (*Hirsh J et al. Chest 2008; 133 (6 suppl):110S-968S.*)

## **Wii-habilitation: Using Video Games To Heal Burns**

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080718080755.htm>

ScienceDaily (July 21, 2008) — Video games — often regarded as nothing more than mindless entertainment for lethargic kids and teens — are proving to be an effective, new tool to motivate patients to perform rehabilitation exercises.

Rehabilitation therapists from the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center are using the motion-sensitive Nintendo Wii video game console, along with traditional methods, to help

patients recover from life-changing injuries.

Patients hold wireless remotes that control actions on screen. Players swing the controller to simulate realistic motions, like swinging a tennis racquet, swatting a baseball for a homerun, among countless other motions. For burn patients or any patient with a skin graft, moving and stretching the skin is very painful, but imperative for a successful recovery.

The Burn Center is also employing a special add-on to the Nintendo Wii system, Guitar Hero III. The controller for the game resembles a miniature guitar. Patients strum a bar on the guitar's body and press color-coded buttons that resemble notes. Therapists hope that Guitar Hero will help patients with burns on their hands, arms and shoulders to regain fine-motor control.

## Australian News

### **In-home Care for Elderly on the Rise, Statistics Show**

Press Release 15/8/08

Source: [www.medicalsearch.com.au/printarticle.aspx?id=33889&Name=News](http://www.medicalsearch.com.au/printarticle.aspx?id=33889&Name=News)

New statistics show the number of Australians receiving in-home aged-care services is on the rise. Almost 56,000 elderly people received care services while living in their own homes during 2006-07, a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals.

General aged-care clients increased by 2,600 to 38,000, while the number receiving high-level care increased by 720 to 3,300.

The statistics showed home-based aged-care services were used by about 20 people per 1,000 in the population aged 70 and over.

The federal government plans to offer 25 aged-care "packages" per 1,000 in the 70-plus group by 2011, in response to the ageing of the population.

The federal government has committed more than \$40 billion during the next four years for aged and community care.

More than \$2 billion will be spent on community care in the following year.

## 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.
- Vancomycin Infusion Rate
- Blood transfusion in the nursing home service
- Validated patient satisfaction survey tool
- Maintenance of Gemstar pumps

## Upcoming Conferences

**HITH Society (NSW) 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.ins1.org/mtgs_ed/2006_nait/index.html)

**NHIA Annual Conference & Exposition**

1-5 March 2009

Baltimore

W: [www.nhianet.org/](http://www.nhianet.org/)