



Inside this issue

- 1 Editorial
- 2 4th Annual National Conference
- 2 Websites
- 5 Conferences

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EDITORIAL

Jenny Silvers

As 2003 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the past year. There have been changes in personnel within Hospital in the Home programs. New Coordinators and Managers have been appointed to programs. Coordinators who have been involved with Hospital in the Home programs from the beginning of the pilot program in Victoria in 1994, have changed roles but still remain involved in early discharge programs.

Hospital in the Home programs in both metropolitan and rural areas are well utilised with most programs reporting increased throughput during 2003 but common issues have been raised. Is the referral appropriate? Does the patient fit the Hospital in the Home criteria? Pressure seems to be placed on Hospital in the Home programs to accept all patient referrals regardless of the patient's suitability to be managed at home.

Let's review the criteria for a patient to be transferred to Hospital in the Home. The patient selection for Hospital in the Home is based upon a comprehensive assessment that is both accurate and objective. Programs have policies and procedures regarding patient selection.

Clinical Characteristics. Diagnosis. Is the patient medically stable? A medical and nursing history, including current medications, drug allergies, vascular access and characteristics of the medication to be administered is taken.

Psychosocial issues. The patient consents to be treated at home. Is there a carer available? Is the carer willing to support the patient.

Environmental factors. Is the home safe? Is the home the appropriate place for the delivery of acute care? Is the home safe for both nursing staff and patient? Is there adequate access to the home? Does the patient have a telephone? The patient should have access to emergency care and back up.

Documentation of the patient's assessment and ongoing care in the home needs to be accurate and detailed.

Discharge planning is a vital component to a patient's continuum of care and involves the patient, carer and family. Comprehensive and appropriate discharge planning incorporates both the hospital and community based services to ensure continuity of care.

Ambulatory Care Australia's annual conference on Disease Management and

Acute Home Care was held in July and was well attended with very positive feedback received and suggestions for next year's conference. Details of the conference feedback follows.

Ambulatory Care Australia wishes everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year. ■

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Jenny Silvers

Ambulatory Care Australia would like to thank all attendees who attended our 4th Annual National Conference on Acute Home Care and Disease Management 2003, held on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th July at Zinc at Federation Square.

The focus of Day 1 of the conference, opened by the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health, Victorian Government, was on the increasing chronic disease burden requiring ongoing management across the health care continuum by multiple health care providers. Professor Steven Boyages, CEO Western Sydney Area Health Service, presented Chronic and complex care initiatives – NSW with the aim to improve the quality of life of people, their carers and families with chronic and complex conditions. The theme to prevent crisis situations and unplanned and unavoidable hospital admissions was continued by Dr Marco Bonollo, General Physician, Disease Management Unit, The Alfred. Speakers from Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales including rural New South Wales were all well received.

On Day 2 the focus was on Acute Home Care with Quality of Care and Risk Assessment with interesting presentations from Dr Joe Ibrahim, Consultant Forensic Physician, State Coroner's Office and Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, followed by Associate Professor Jenny Majoor, The Alfred, sharing her experiences of acute home care from the consumer's view. The theme of the day continued with Melanie Bahuth, Julia Currell and Associate Professor Lexie Clayton, discussing the integration of Acute Aged Care Services at Bayside Health, Dr Simon Wynn-Thomas, Medical Director and Paul Abernethy, Manager, Community Care, Pegasus Health, Christchurch, New Zealand presentation focussing on the involvement of family GPs to be involved in providing more care. Hospital in the Home programs were well represented with Barbara Farrelly, Clinical Nurse Manager, Hospital@Home and Flinders Liaison Services, Flinders Medical Centre, SA and Sophia Evans and Stefan Nynycz, Royal Melbourne Hospital presenting their programs.

The feedback from the delegates was generally of excellent and good. The comments and suggestions for future conferences have been well received. There was good representation of delegates from all states of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Unsatisfactory	Poor	No Answer
Seminar Content	23 (46.93%)	20 (40.81%)	3 (6.12%)			3 (6.12%)
Seminar Venue	19 (38.77%)	20 (40.81%)	6 (12.24%)	1 (2.04%)	1 (2.04%)	2 (4.08%)
Seminar Organisation	23 (46.93%)	23 (46.93%)				3 (6.12%)
Catering	25 (51.02%)	18 (36.73%)	2 (4.08%)			3 (6.12%)

Conference presentations can be accessed on our website: [www.http://aca.health.vic.gov.au](http://aca.health.vic.gov.au) ■

WEBSITES

What information can you find on HITH using the Internet? Check the following websites.

UNITED STATES

<http://www.aaacn.org/>

The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing is the association of professional nurses who identify ambulatory care practice as essential to the continuum of high quality, cost-effective health care.

www.aahcp.org/dvt.htm for The American Academy of Home Care Physicians (AAHCP) DVT Guidelines. These include:

Diagnostic Checklist

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
Patient Consent Form
Patient Counselling for DVT
AAHCP Treatment Protocol
Frequently asked questions and References

www.idlinks.com/opat.htm and www.opat.com for the US site for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT). This contains the outcomes registries both international and the US registry, OPAT Resources book and OPIT Source book, references on OPAT and information on how to order the Handbook of Outpatient Parenteral Therapy for Infectious Diseases. Links are provided to several associations including National Home Infusion Association and Intravenous Nursing Association. A previously active website: www.opivita.com from the Outpatient Intravenous Infusion Therapy Association, which had an online Newsletter now links to the OPAT website.

Several presentations are currently available on the website & can be downloaded from www.IDLINKS.com

www.ashp.org/homecare/ is a US site for homecare pharmacists. This site has guidelines on:

- Pharmacists role in homecare
- Minimum standards for homecare pharmacists
- Quality assurance of pharmacy-prepared sterile products
- Technical assistance bulletin on handling cytotoxic and hazardous products

Information is also available on credentialling in pharmacy and the continuing education section includes the use of intravenous intropic therapy in the home.

Home Health Care Consultant published by MultiMedia Healthcare/Freedom www.mmhc.com

National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel is composed of United States recognised experts and industry representatives who offer wound care and pressure ulcer information at www.npuap.org/

Audiovisual instruction on health management of wounds and pressure ulcers for older adults from the University of Florida College of Medicine at www.medinfo.ufl.edu/cme/hmoa/tape3/

www.fazzi.com has recommendation of best practice strategies for US agencies to function under a prospective payment system including 25 performance indicators. It also has information on clinical pathways in home care.

A series of Merck publications are available free on line including the Merck Manual at www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual and the geriatrics manual at www.MerckGeriManual.com

Other websites of interest or relevance include:

The Home Care Information Technology Council www.hitcvendors.com

The National Association for Home Care (US) website www.nahc.org

The National Home Infusion Association (US) is a national membership association for clinicians, managers, and organisations providing infusion therapy services for patients in home care and outpatient clinic settings. www.nhianet.org

The Missouri Alliance for Home Care (MAHC) provides information on their Infection Surveillance Project. Data on infection rates in home care patients with central venous catheters and bladder catheters are provided in graph form. The data was collected between 1999-2001. www.homecaremissouri.org/resources.htm

Home Healthcare Nurses Association

The Home Healthcare Nurses Association (HHNA) of Washington DC, offers products and publications that are useful to home health professionals. <http://www.hhna.org>

All Health Net.com

The All Health Net.com website by the All Health Development Corporation in Florida, offers a wide range of medical and health information for healthcare professionals. The site also provides links to numerous home care / HITH relevant websites. These can be found at: www.allhealthnet.com/Nursing/Homehealth%2BNursing/index.html

The following websites are included in the links list: About Home Care, American Federation of Home Health Agencies, American Home Care Association, Angels of Mercy: Home Health Resources, The Centre for Health Care Law, Choosing a Home Care Agency: Care Giver Information, Clinical Pathway Homepage, Commonly asked Home Care Questions, Dial n Document, HCFA's: Health Care Financing Administration, HCFA's: OASIS Home Page, Helpful Links and Contacts for Home Care Providers, Home Care Association of America, Home Care Online: The National Association for Home Care, Home Care (International Job Exchange), Home Care Resources (Visiting Nurses Association of America), Home Care Services, Home Care University, Home Health Care Documentation System, Home Health Consultant, How to Choose a Home Care Provider – Consumer, Kansas Home Care Association, Legislative Updates, Ohio Council for Home Care, Professional Certification for Homecare Executives

and Visiting Nurses Association of America. Relevant International Links include: Canadian RN Bookstore and Home Care in the Netherlands (English and Dutch). www.allhealthnet.com

Provider Consult.com

Provider Consult.com is the site of a home healthcare consulting firm from Kentucky, USA. The site includes an A–Z directory of home care resources with links. The directory includes education, telemedicine, patient supplies, products and services and association links and contains more than 350 categorised resources for home care professionals. www.providerconsult.com

Home Care Magazine

This site contains text of current and archived articles, links and resources on a range of home care topics. <http://industryclick.com>

CANADIAN WEBSITES

www.hcerc.utoronto.ca/ is the website for Home Care Evaluation and Research Centre- a multidisciplinary research centre with a focus on home care research and exchange located at University of Toronto, Canada. The website includes access to their bimonthly Newsletter- Homebase.

AUSTRALIAN WEBSITES

<http://www.archi.net.au> Australian Resource Centre for Hospital Innovations (ARCHI)

The following presentations may be of interest to HITH programs:

REACH OUT (rehabilitation of the Elderly and Care at Home or Usual Treatment): A randomised Control Trial

Dr Gideon Caplan, Director, Post Acute Care Services, Prince of Wales Hospital

Beyond Hospital in the Home for COPD Patients

Oshana Hermiz, Project Officer, Simpson Centre, South Western Sydney Area Health Service

Burnie Acute Care at Home – Hospital in the Home making a Difference

Katrina Willis, North West Regional Hospital, Tasmania

Paediatric Outreach Service (A Domiciliary Task)

Dr Gordon Waterlow, Fairfield Hospital, Fairfield Health Service, NSW

Home V's Hospital Treatment of Exacerbations of COPD: A Randomised Controlled Trial

Dimity Schollay, Project Officer, Brisbane Mater Adult Hospital, QLD

How Information & IT Comes Together to Support Chronic Disease Management (abstract unavailable)

Carolyn McNally, Branch Manager, policy & Products Branch, health Insurance Commission

GP / Hospital Collaboration – Improving Communication

Jacqueline Greenham, Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Waratah, NSW

UNITED KINGDOM WEBSITES

www.ohpat.org.uk for the UK site for OHPAT (Outpatient and Home Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy). This site is password protected.

The website has:

- OHPAT guidelines;

- published papers;

- resource library which lists leading experts in: Infectious Diseases (Dr Chris Conlon, Infectious Diseases Unit, Oxford Radcliffe Hospital who visited Australia in June this year and gave a presentation on OHPAT for serious gram positive infections), Oncology, Paediatric Haematology, Nurse Practitioner intravenous therapy, support groups and case studies;

- Regional roundup with local updates;

- National and International Events and

- Newsletter (current issue includes articles on endocarditis, infection control).

Other UK websites include: www.home-care.co.uk , www.ukhomecare.co.uk/ (which is still under development) and www.clinovia.co.uk.

National Quality Forum for Ambulatory Health Care

Institute for Quality Improvement

Las Vegas, NV

December 7th – 8th, 2003

Website: http://www.ahqa.org/pub/connections/162_695_2451.cfm

38th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibits

December 7-11, 2003

The Morial Convention Center

New Orleans, Louisiana

Website: <http://www.ashp.org/meetings/midyear/index.cfm>

Managing Chronic Disease Forum 2004

13 February - 14 February

Charles Sturt University

Convention Centre, Wagga Wagga

Contact: Penny Lamont - Forum Coordinator -

RMB 246, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

Phone: (02) 6924 6311 Fax: (02) 6924 6411

Mobile: 0427 433 795

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The Case Management Society of Australia's 7th Annual Conference

Case Management: Fad or Future?

19 February - 20 February

Melbourne, Victoria

Website: www.cmsa.org.au

ARCHI Toolkit Seminar: Innovations in the Management and Clinical Care of Chronic and Complex Disease.

Thursday February 26th, 2004

Perth, Western Australia

Telephone the ARCHI National Office on 02 4985 3165 or email: admin@archi.net.au

ARCHI Toolkit Seminar: Innovations in Sub Acute Care – Interface Between Aged Care and Acute Care Sectors.

Friday February 27th, 2004

Perth, Western Australia

Telephone the ARCHI National Office on 02 4985 3165 or email: admin@archi.net.au

National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2004

Quality Use of Medicines - time for total integration

28 - 30 July 2004

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia.

Website: <http://www.nps.org.au>