



Baxter

Corporate Sponsor



Seasons Greetings to all ACA members. We have had a busy year in 2005 with some restructuring of ACA activities and a substantial increase in our disease management activities which we are running through the Australian Disease Management Association (ADMA).

Next year the Annual National Conference on the 7th and 8th of September will focus on disease management and will be run by ADMA whilst ACA is planning to run a series of hospital-in-the-home seminars. Although the dates of the seminars are yet to be finalised we are interested in hearing from anybody who has undertaken any interesting studies in HITH or would like to give a short presentation that may be relevant to other HITH programs.

Membership ACA: For anybody wishing to join the ACA distribution list and receive the Newsletter, HITH Review and the HITH information exchange the membership form is available on our website. Annual membership fees are due in April 2006.

Membership ADMA: For those wishing to join the Australian Disease Management Association please contact Marion Osborn or Kaylene Fiddes at info@adma.org.au. Annual membership fees are due in April 2006.

We would like to encourage ACA members to contribute to the Newsletter either with information on new indications for HITH, any changes that your program may have implemented or any problems you have experienced that other programs may be interested in reading about.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ACA
The Alfred
Commercial Road
Melbourne, Victoria 3004
T: +61 3 9276 3535
F: +61 3 9276 6901
E: aca@alfred.org.au
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aca/>

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

Recent requests from the HITH Chat Line

- Drug administration policies for nurses in HITH
- Self-directed learning/education sessions on cellulitis, community acquired pneumonia, deep vein thrombosis and pyelonephritis/urinary tract infections.
- Overnight call-out services.
- Management and care of patients with COPD, heart failure and diabetes.
- Use of CoaguCheck® in HITH.

Relevant International and Local News

National Home Care and Primary Health Care Partnership Project

The National Home Care and Primary Health Care Partnership Project which is also referred to as the “National Partnership Project” is being undertaken by the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA).

The project comprises three phases and will run until March 31, 2006. The Project partners include the Calgary Health Region; Ontario CCACs (Halton and Peel); academia and research; primary health care providers; the Government of Canada; and stakeholder associations.

The primary objective is to enhance the integration of home care and primary health care services in Canada using the following strategies:

Increased primary health care provider collaboration

Stronger home care case management role

Focus on clients/patients with chronic diseases

Electronic connectivity

IT applications for databases and algorithms/templates for chronic disease management to enhance delivery of preferred practice through the application of accepted clinical guidelines.

LINK: http://www.cdnhomecare.ca/primary/public_display/index.php

Partners HealthCare launches home health pilot

Partners HealthCare has launched a pilot project in September aimed at providing better care for patients with leg wounds. The goal is to make it possible for a limited number of wound-care specialists to examine and treat more home health patients using a cell phone camera. The cell phone digital photo is geared at providing expertise for home-care patients who might be miles away. Visiting nurses take pictures of the wounds using a Motorola MPX220 Smartphone, with a built-in digital camera,

The phones automatically upload the photos to the Web application for the specialist to examine and develop a treatment plan.

The study has started with 34 patients and has about 20 visiting nurses who each call on 4 to 5 patients per day. The patient load is high – about 500 altogether in a 30-mile radius of Boston. Leg wounds are common among patients diagnosed with diabetes. The right treatment at the right time is essential for healing. The visiting nurses don't have the expertise in caring for wounds that an enterostomal therapy nurse (ETNs) has. The specially trained ETNs take up to 15 years to train and are in short supply. Partners has two ETNs on staff who spend most of their time at the hospitals.

Partners is undertaking the new cell phone pilot, which grew out of a three-year study in which the visiting nurses took digital photos and mailed them to the ETN. The two would then discuss the best course of treatment. The process took about 2 1/2 days. The new pilot using the cell phone and Web application takes about 20 minutes.

LINK: <http://www.healthcareitnews.com/default.aspx>

Conferences

NHIA 15th Annual Conference: Moving Forward Together

8-11 March 2006, George R Brown Convention Centre, Houston, Texas, USA

Website: www.nhianet.org

2005 INS National Academy of Infusion Therapy Annual Meeting

6-11 May 2006, Reno, Nevada.

Website: www.ins1.org/

Healthcare without walls- Delivering the best care in the best place

15-16 June 2006 , Holiday Inn, Adelaide, South Australia

Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/Healthcare%20without%20Walls2.pdf>

Evidence-Based Disease Management

7-8 September 2006, Crown Promenade, Melbourne, Victoria

Website: www.adma.org.au

