

Public Sector Residential Aged Care (PSRACS) Bulletin

This bulletin provides information on strategies that have been developed to assist with pressure care, along with updates of the progress of the Quality Indicator Project and the Business Performance Improvement Project featured in previous editions.

Mattress Replacement in Residential Care

The Minister for Aged Care recently announced further funding for the Department of Human Services (DHS) Mattress Replacement Program to extend this initiative to public sector residential aged care. This funding is on top of the \$2 million previously made available for similar mattresses in public hospitals, and complements the Victorian Wound Management Project which is exploring how health services can be improved for people with chronic wounds living in the community.

The provision of pressure reduction mattresses in high care services is an integral part of maintaining the skin integrity of higher dependency residents and supports the introduction of the Quality Indicators (QI) initiative in public sector residential aged care, one of which monitors the prevalence of pressure ulcers. In addition it promotes resident comfort and is a further Government contribution towards implementing a minimum benchmark for standard mattresses used by public sector services in Victoria.

This allocation follows on from previous State Government funding made available for the purchase of electronic beds, lifting machines and other equipment upgrades for public sector residential aged care services with high care places.

Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV) has contracted MacMed Healthcare to supply static pressure reduction foam mattresses for the DHS Mattress Replacement Program. Services will be receiving advice shortly about the allocation and supply process.

If you would like any further information regarding this aged care initiative please email neale.gerlach@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Mattress Management

The appropriate selection, cleaning, inspection and replacement of mattresses, as well as other equipment, is an essential component of the quality management of residents' skin integrity.

Guidance for services on a mattress management program have been developed for the DHS Mattress Replacement Program and are available through Health Purchasing Victoria's website at <http://www.hpv.org.au> under Purchasing Policies: Mattress Audit Tool.

Technical specifications for static pressure reduction foam mattresses have also been developed and are useful for services to consider prior to the purchase of this type of equipment. The specifications are included as Appendix 1 of the Statewide Pressure Ulcer Point Prevalence Survey (PUPPS) 2 Report 2004- available at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pressureulcers/> under Pressure ulcer point prevalence survey.

Pressure Ulcer Education Online

Pressure Ulcer Basics is an interactive online education package recently developed by the Victorian Quality Council. The package is composed of three modules to allow individuals to work at their own pace and convenience.

Module 1 - Understanding Pressure Ulcers outlines the occurrence of pressure ulcers and describes the impact they have on individuals, carers and the health care system. (Duration: approx. 45 min)

Module 2 - Risk Assessment describes the importance of assessing pressure ulcer risks and outlines the use of risk assessment tools. (Duration: approx. 25 min)

Module 3- Developing a Prevention

Management Plan describes strategies available to develop a risk management plan (Duration: approx. 25 min)

Pressure Ulcer Basics can be used

- as part of an induction/orientation program for nursing and care staff
- as part of annual staff competency requirements
- as inservice training to highlight a current issue

The *Pressure Ulcers Basics* education program as well as information publications to improve consumer understanding of pressure ulcer prevention and management, developed by the Victorian Quality Council, are available on-line at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pressureulcers/>

This website also provides access to the latest reports of PUPPS, with PUPPS 3 (2006) available in September.

Business Performance Improvement Project -Stage 2

The current phase of the project involves the establishment of Sector Working Groups (SWGs). There has been high level of interest and nominations from agency staff for SWGs with each group being expanded to accommodate the response and to ensure membership will include a cross section of skills, agencies and services.

The groups are composed of finance, care and administrative personnel from across the sector - from DHS, rural and metropolitan agencies including Multi Purpose Services (MPSs) and Aged Persons Mental Health (APMH) services.

SWGs are scheduled to have their first meeting in early September. It is anticipated that the SWGs will bring practical industry experience and be used to test new tools and processes in the 3 designated areas:

- Business Processes
- Benchmarking
- Change Management

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered, volunteered someone else or responded positively to our gentle 'tap on the shoulder'! For any further information contact terri.preece@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Progress with rollout of Quality Indicators in residential aged care

Feedback from the sector indicates that the rollout of the quality indicators is progressing well. Quality Champions within agencies have developed QI implementation plans and have undertaken a range of information and education processes for residents, families, management and staff. Data collection has commenced for the 'physical restraint' and 'unplanned weight loss' indicators (both of which have three audit dates within each quarter) and some services have also conducted their quarterly audit for the 'pressure areas' and 'use of 9 or more medicines' indicators.

An extra QI rollout training session on 16 August was targeted to those APMH Units that had not attended training. This session was well attended and comments from participants were very positive. A second print run of Resource Manuals is being organised for any services that still need a copy.

Many PSRACS staff were also able to develop their understanding of the clinical issues underlying the QI and contribute their views at the Aged Care Quality Improvement Seminar held in July.

QI Data Entry

The new data entry screen for the QI is up on the AIMS system ready for data entry at the end of this quarter. People with an AIMS logon can access this screen through the following process:

Open Health Collect page and select Aims Online Log on to the Agency Information Management System (AIMS) and the MENU page will open Select 'On-line Data Entry Public' Select Quarterly Residential Forms Select Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services: Residential Aged Care Services Quality Indicators

A copy of the screen will be emailed to all QI key contact people during September. This will facilitate easy and accurate entry of QI data on the AIMS system. The AIMS Manual for 2006-07 will also include instructions.

Please contact Elaine.pulleine@dhs.vic.gov.au if you have any questions regarding the QI project.

September 12 2006 is the Global Day Against Pain in Older Persons and commences the International Year Against Pain

The Australian Pain Society has prepared the attached poster and more information can be downloaded from the website at www.apsoc.org.au

International Year Against Pain in Older Persons

commencing with the

Global Day Against



Pain in Older Persons

12 September 2006

The Australian Pain Society invites communities to participate and promote this day within your workplace so as to help improve pain relief in older persons throughout the world.

For more information

www.iasp-pain.org • www.apsoc.org.au

