



**The Geelong Hospital
Hospital In The Home
General Practitioner Education Project Feb - May 1998
Final Report 23rd July 1998**

Background

The Geelong Hospital, Hospital in the Home (HITH) program was awarded incentive funds to improve General Practitioner participation in HITH care by delivering an education program to General Practitioner's in the Barwon Region. In parallel with this, General Practitioners were surveyed by questionnaire to identify issues around Hospital in the Home care.

Consultation

The Geelong Division of General Practitioners and consultant medical staff at Geelong Hospital, along with HITH nursing staff were involved in developing the education program and identifying the preferred method of delivery.

Delivery of the Program

It was decided through the above process to provide education and discussion groups at:

- a. Individual General Practitioners practices
- b. Group sessions at Community Health Centres
- c. Group sessions at the Geelong Hospital.

Structure of the Program (delivered on the day)

- Overview of HITH
- Selection criteria
- Types of patients treated on HITH
- How to refer to HITH as a General Practitioner
- Reimbursement issues
- Communication channels
- Range of settings for delivery of Hospital in the Home eg. nursing homes, hostel SRS, home, school, relatives home, workplace etc.

- General Practitioners management of HITH patients
- Question time and discussion
- A formal presentation on HITH and update on cellulitis was held.

The program was delivered at times stipulated by the General Practitioners, with food and drinks supplied over meal times.

All practices that expressed interest were contacted by HITH to arrange future sessions. Again see Attachment 4 with responses.

Summary

In conclusion, the General Practitioner project stimulated involvement and feedback from over one third of all General Practitioner in the Barwon Region (see Analysis, Attachment 5). Despite several approaches to each General Practitioner, close to two thirds of the region GP's chose not to respond to or be involved.

For the ongoing development and success of HITH services, education strategies should become a statewide departmental responsibility involving the Divisions of General Practice as well as each individual programs responsibility.

As a specific outcome from this project, HITH is developing a submission for '98/'99 Hospital in the Home incentive funding for General Practitioner shared care, to further enhance the relationship between Hospital in the Home and the regions GP's.

Statewide standards, guidelines need to be developed and sufficient resources continue to ensure the demands placed on the current community health service providers can be met. This is necessary to sustain safe, quality home based care practises as attitudes toward acute home care remain ambivalent.

Further strategies directed at acute care practitioners also need developing to enhance the promotion of shared care between community based practices and acute care facilities.

The Geelong Hospital, Hospital in the Home staff received a high level of satisfaction in working with the General Practitioner Project. Direct referrals to the service from GP's have since increased, along with more frequent contact with GP's who utilise Hospital in the Home as a resource/contact point in the hospital.

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