



strokefoundation

Australian Stroke Coalition



ASC NEWS – WINTER 2012 EDITION

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ASC Operations

ASC website

The ASC web content was moved from the National Stroke Foundation (NSF) website to a dedicated ASC site. The development of the website was kindly funded by NSF. The new address is www.australianstrokecoalition.com.au. The site contains information about member organisations and their representatives and copies of all reports, minutes, projects and publications as well as a signup facility for the ASC newsletter. Members are encouraged to use the site to promote their education, training and events. The site is administered by the ASC secretariat – Leah Wright (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) and all requests should be sent to this address.

Current Projects

Stroke rehabilitation assessment tool for the acute setting

The ASC has determined that every person who has a stroke will be assessed for their rehabilitation needs. The ASC Rehabilitation working group commenced a project to develop a nationally consistent assessment process for post acute rehabilitation needs. The aim of this project is to document a recommended process and develop a tool to facilitate the assessment of stroke survivors' rehabilitation needs while still in the acute setting.

The ASC Rehabilitation working group met on the 4 July 2012 to finalise the evaluation report and the assessment tool and further discuss implementation. The tool and education package will be completed within the month and then the documentation for the tool and education package will be professionally designed which will be funded by the Queensland Stroke Network.

Implementation will be targeted toward all sites that admit stroke patients and will also be supported by a PhD project.

Susan Hillier will be presenting an oral abstract detailing the results of the pilot at the Stroke 2012 scientific committee.

For more information contact ASC secretariat Leah Wright (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) or current Rehabilitation working group chairperson, Dr Susan Hillier (susan.hillier@unisa.edu.au).

My Stroke Care Plan

A priority of the ASC is to ensure that all patients experience a well-coordinated and supported discharge and that stroke survivors have access to appropriate care that meets their needs.

My Stroke Care Plan template has been developed for use in all hospitals in Australia. The template was piloted in a number of public and private hospitals across Australia.

The Care Plan has been modified based on the feedback from the pilot. The Care Plan forms one component of a new comprehensive written resource for stroke survivors and carers known as My Stroke Journey (MSJ) which is currently being piloted by the NSF across Australia.

The pilot is progressing well with the 21 participating sites piloting close to 200 packs. Hospitals are now disseminating surveys to stroke survivors and carer participants. Health professional evaluation interviews will occur over the coming few weeks. Implementation is planned for September.

An oral abstract has been accepted by the Stroke 2012 scientific committee.

Stroke-specific education framework implementation

The ASC has identified Workforce, Professional Development and Training as one of its priority areas. Currently, Australia currently has no nationally agreed strategy or framework for stroke education needs. The ASC has developed a National Stroke-Specific Education Framework (SSEF) that aims to:

- assist education providers to develop consistent stroke training, programs and curriculum for all stroke clinicians
- increase the number of stroke clinicians participating in recognised training that furthers their specialisation in stroke
- encourage delivery of evidence-based stroke care as outlined in the national stroke guidelines by encouraging stroke-specific education.

The SSEF is based around the Stroke Continuum and relates to the 14 elements of care. It has been developed to promote strong inter-professional education and training, and those who use the framework are encouraged to apply the framework in that context.

A number of professional organisations have decided to use the principles of the framework in developing their education and training. Some of the State Clinical Networks including NSW, Victoria and SA have endorsed the framework and will use it to assist them to develop their education and training.

For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) or Workforce, training and professional development working group chairperson, Andrew Lee (Andrew.Lee@health.sa.gov.au).

TIA models of care project

The ASC has identified acute care and, in particular, management of transient ischaemic attack (TIA) as a priority. To assist in the implementation of the NHMRC Guideline recommendations for the management of patients with TIA in the local setting, a project team has been formed to develop a national consensus statement to outline evidence-based best practice models of care for TIA.

The position paper has been circulated to the project team for review and feedback and their comments have been integrated. Further consultation with the project team is now occurring and then the paper will be sent to a wider audience. The paper has taken longer than planned and will now be completed late early October 2012. An abstract has been accepted by the Stroke 2012 scientific committee for oral presentation.

For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) or Project Lead Mark Parsons (Mark.Parsons@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)

First 48 hrs project

The aim of this project is to provide evidence-based models of care to assist clinicians to provide best practice in the first 48 hours of stroke care. Drafting of the paper has commenced.

ASC Member Organisation reports

Some ASC members have reported on the work their organisations have been doing in stroke for the past quarter:

Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)

AFRM is represented by Dr Steven Faux, Director at the Rehabilitation Unit, St Vincent's Public Hospital, Sydney.

The neuro rehabilitation world congress was held in Melbourne. The review of the policy for botulinum toxin use in rehabilitation is underway. New rehabilitation positions have been advertised for 2012. Data continues to be collected for AROC. AFRM representatives continue to participate in the management and steering committee for AUSCR.

Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) National Neurology Group (NNG)

The APA NNG is represented by Associate Professor Julie Bernhardt, Director, AVERT Early Intervention Research Program, National Stroke Research Institute.

The APA continues to run professional development activities for members that are stroke specific and/or neurological in focus. Plans are ongoing for the development of Level 1 and Level 2 competency courses that will be aimed at physiotherapists entering work in neurological physiotherapy or returning to work (Level 1). Level 2 courses are directed at physiotherapists with experience in neurological physiotherapy.

These 2 levels will be used to help therapist meet the requirements for proven PD related to their area of special interest and will assist those who wish to undertake the formal 'specialisation' process.

Consumers

Consumers are represented by Eleanor Horton (Queensland) and Annette McGrath (South Australia).

There has been a lot of activity for the consumer representatives including attendance at the Queensland and South Australia Stroke Steering Committee network meetings; panel member at the Queensland NSF Consumer Stroke Forum; attendance at the NSF Consumer Council meeting; attendance at the Queensland feedback session for Carers and Survivors and attendance at local stroke support meetings.

National Stroke Foundation

NSF is represented by Dr Erin Lalor, Chief Executive Officer, and Chris Price, Divisional Director – Stroke Services.

National Stroke Audit – Rehabilitation Services

The National Stroke Foundation closed the data collection phase of the National Stroke Audit – Rehabilitation Services 2012 in June. The biennial audit of rehabilitation services includes a clinical audit and an organisational survey. Sites entered 3,075 patient cases in the clinical audit. This year, 101 sites participated in the clinical audit

The next ASC meeting will be a teleconference and will be held in November 2012.

and 111 sites completed the organisational survey. Participation in the National Stroke Audit continues to grow and 89% of all eligible public hospitals participated in some part of this year's audit. This is a 3% increase from 2010. For more information about the National Stroke Audit Program, contact Elizabeth Ritchie, eritchie@strokefoundation.com.au.

NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Statewide Stroke Services

SSS is represented by Sandra Lever, Michael Pollock and Mark Longworth.

Agreement was negotiated with Northern NSW Local Health District (LHD) to audit The Tweed Hospital (TTH). The results of the audit will be utilised in conjunction with a service development plan for a stroke unit at TTH.

A rural stroke care coordinator has been appointed to develop stroke services at Lismore Base Hospital. The position commences on 2 October 2012. This position will support the hub and spoke model for northern NSW.

Agreement has been negotiated with Southern NSW LHD to audit Bateman's Bay and Moruya Hospital's. The results of the audit will be utilised to guide a service development plan for a hub and spoke stroke service within the Eurobodalla Health Service

The redevelopment of Bega Hospital in Southern NSW LHD will see the inclusion of a 4 bed acute stroke unit. This will be a hub and spoke development for the Bega Health Services.

SSS has supported the development of a document titled *Care and Support Pathways for People with an Acquired Brain Injury-Referral and Service Options in NSW-May 2011* in conjunction with the following agencies (Ageing, Disability and Home Care, NSW Ministry of Health, Housing NSW, Lifetime Care and Support Authority and Corrective Services NSW).

The third meeting of the Stroke Outreach Services (SOS) groups was held 15 August. The group is currently considering core service outcome measures in terms of: Quality Of Life, Participation/Activity, Goals and Carer Strain. Next steps in this process will be to discuss the outcome measures with AROC in terms of current data collection and reporting.

On 25 July the 2nd SSS stroke education session was held at North Ryde. Entitled "Time is Function" the workshop had the following aims: Using an evidence-based platform, this workshop will educate health professionals interested in improving the outcomes of

stroke survivors faced with the challenges of rehabilitation and restoration of functional independence. It will target allied health and nursing professionals working in the sub-acute phase post stroke.

The objectives of the workshop were to: describe the aims and objectives of rehabilitation and sub-acute management, explore the most up-to-date evidence concerning stroke recovery, discuss ways of applying the evidence into clinical practice, have opportunity to discuss and problem-solve stroke recovery with others, meet and network with peers and colleagues working in stroke rehabilitation. 38 clinicians from across NSW attended the education session

e-Stroke Australia was launched by Erin Lalor on 9 July 2012. The online educational platform was developed by a consortium of NSW Rural Stroke Care Coordinators and members of the Victorian Stroke Clinical Network. The initial development has led to a partnership with NSF, SSA and developers Eye Media.

Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA)

The RCNA is represented by Sandra Lever, Rehabilitation Clinical Nurse Consultant at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney.

Up until 1 July 2012, Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) as Australia's peak professional nursing organisation, has continued to maintain an interest in issues relating to stroke, primarily from a national nursing perspective. This has been undertaken through our ongoing representation on the Australia Stroke Coalition. RCNA continued to support the work of the Acute Response working group and is open to supporting and promoting any nursing service delivery developments as the opportunity arises.

RCNA continued to support representation of nursing and active participation in the ASC Rehabilitation working group activities.

As part of this commitment, RCNA actively liaised with member experts to provide a response from a professional nursing perspective to the Australian Stroke Coalition Proposed National Data and Quality Improvement Discussion Paper.

RCNA's response was in support of the Stroke Specific Education Framework and seen as a potentially valuable step towards improving national data collection for the purposes of monitoring evidence-based care and improving patient outcomes.

RCNA continued to support representation of nursing and active participation in the ASC Workforce Training and Professional development working group activities.

Other RCNA activities included ongoing monitoring of local, state and national issues relevant to stroke, monitoring opportunities to promote any nursing and/or nurse-led service delivery and innovations in relation to stroke.

South Australian Stroke Clinical Network

The SA Stroke Clinical Network is represented by Susan Hillier and Andrew Lee.

A state-wide launch for the Acute stroke care pathways has been announced and will take place in September. The steering committee has agreed to support a grant bid for implementation research to facilitate the uptake of rehabilitation pathway processes across the state. The "Planning for Assessment for rehabilitation tool" trial is underway.

There have been discussions about stroke specific training for nurses in hyperacute settings across the state and for possible workshops around rehabilitation intensity.

The Data working group have met and also members of the steering committee have met with EPAS teams at SA health to ensure the key elements of both acute and rehabilitation are embedded within the new system.

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA)

Speech Pathology Australia is represented by Christina Wilson, Senior Advisor - Professional Issues.

SPA have conducted a number of workshops including:

New South Wales - April 2012 Two-day workshop 'New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management' by Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee (USA). Australian Capital Territory - April 2012 'Increasing sensitivity of clinical swallowing assessment: the cough reflex test' by Dr Maggie Lee Huckabee (USA).

WA Tues August 2012 - 1-day workshop "Acquired Apraxia of Speech: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment" by Assoc Prof Kirrie Ballard.

Queensland and ACT - April 2012 Workshop on 'The Changing Face of Rehabilitation for Swallowing Impairment and the Re-emergence of Surface EMG Biofeedback' by Dr Maggie Lee Huckabee (USA).

Western Australia - April 2012 One-day workshop 'Working with Clients with Aphasia: Goal Setting and Integration of Impairment and Functional Approaches' by Prof Linda Worrall and Dr Deborah Hersh.

South Australia - April 2012 One-day workshop 'Working with clients with aphasia - goal setting and integration of impairment, functional and social approaches' by Professor Linda Worrall

VIC August 2012 Melbourne 2-day workshop 'Behavioural Neuro-rehabilitation for Acquired Apraxia of Speech and Dysarthria' by Assoc Prof Kirrie Ballard.

Filming has commenced for a documentary about Stroke-a-Chord. The documentary will encompass the stories of some of the choir members while providing the viewer with an insight on stroke and aphasia. The goal is to have the documentary aired on national TV. The Bank of Melbourne has contributed \$10,000 to Stroke-a-Chord for the filming of the documentary as a community project.

The University of Queensland is undertaking a research study to describe Australian speech pathologists' experiences and perceptions with the stroke practice clinical guidelines. Speech Pathology Australia advertised the study to its members in support of gaining participation in a survey and/or telephone interviews.

Stroke Society of Australasia (SSA)

The Stroke Society of Australasia is represented by Professor Richard Lindley, Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Sydney University; Dr Mark Parsons, Senior Staff Neurologist John Hunter Hospital; and Dr Tissa Wijeratne, Consultant Neurologist and Director, Stroke Unit at Western Hospital.

The Stroke Society of Australasia contributed to the submissions for the Professor Sansom review of Anticoagulation Therapies in Atrial Fibrillation. The submission can be viewed with the others at: <http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/reviews/submissions-atrial-fibrillation>. The Society was also represented at the Stakeholder Forum held on the 4th July 2012.

The 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held with Smart Strokes in Sydney (<http://www.stroke2012.com.au/>) from 29-31 August 2012 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. With nearly 700 delegates already registered, this will be one of the largest stroke conferences held in Australia for some time.

The 2013 meeting will be held in Darwin during 31 July to 2 August 2012 with a title of "TopEnd Stroke - excellent care for ALL our patients.

The first training workshop for Basic Physician Trainees (junior doctors) was held in Newcastle in April 2012. Some 65 attendees were there in person, with an additional 10 connected by teleconference. Following the success of this event, further workshops are planned in Adelaide and Perth. The Society considers these of great importance for several reasons: stroke physicians are still in short supply and we need to generate interest at an early stage in training, and secondly, these physicians are often at the front line of care for the delivery of stroke thrombolysis and greater knowledge will hopefully improve the effectiveness of acute stroke interventions nationally.

The Society was very pleased to see the effective transfer of the e-Stroke educational tool to the NSF. Work can now continue in developing this resource.