

Secretariat report - September 2012

1. Current project updates

Stroke rehabilitation assessment tool for acute settings

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 has finalised the manual for the assessment tool and it is currently with the designer.

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

Susan Hillier recently presented the pilot results and the manual at Stroke 2012 in Sydney.

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 know as My Stroke Journey (MSJ). The pilot of MSJ was recently completed and implementation is planned for September 2012.

Janine Coffin from NSF recently presented My Stroke Care Plan at Stroke 2012 in Sydney. For more information, contact ASC secretariat Leah Wright (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) or Rebecca Naylor (rnaylor@strokefoundation.com.au).

Stroke-specific education framework implementation

The ASC has identified Workforce, Professional Development and Training as one 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 the various models of care for TIA in Australia.

The discussion paper has been circulated to the project team for review and feedback and their comments have been integrated. The paper has been reviewed again and sent back to the project team. It will be circulated to a wider audience for further consultation shortly. Mark Parsons presented details of the paper to-date at the recent Stroke 2012 conference in Sydney.

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. For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au) or Project co-leads Rohan Grimley (Rohan.Grimley@health.qld.gov.au) and Sandy Middleton (Sandy.Middleton@acu.edu.au).

2.0 Communications

ASC Annual report

The 2011-2012 ASC annual report is completed and will be published to the website this week.

ASC Newsletter

The Winter newsletter has been completed and will be published to the website this week.

ASC Website

ASC members are reminded that the new look ASC website is available for their use to disseminate education, training and workshop information. For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au).