

Secretariat report - July 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 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.

An oral abstract presenting the pilot results has been accepted by 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 know 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. 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 is currently with the project lead and will then be circulated to the rest of the project team again and then a wider audience for further consultation. It is anticipated that the paper will be completed late August 2012. An oral abstract has been accepted by the Stroke 2012 scientific committee.

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 Newsletter

The Autumn newsletter has been published and is available at <http://australianstrokecoalition.com.au/site/media/ASC-Newsletter-Autumn-2012.pdf>

ASC Website

The ASC has a new domain name and new look website at www.australianstrokecoalition.com.au. The development of the site was kindly funded by the National Stroke Foundation. The site is administered by the ASC secretariat. Links have also been placed on the NSF, SSA and eStroke website and members are also invited to link to the site as well as submit news, events and training for publication on the site. For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au).