

Secretariat report - November 2011

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. In this project the aim 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 project team firstly assessed current practice and collated evidence from Australia and overseas for various approaches to facilitate rehabilitation. They piloted a survey in January 2010 and then disseminated the survey nationally in April 2010. The survey included questions about the processes used for assessing a stroke survivor's rehabilitation needs beyond the acute setting. It was sent to all sites that participated in the 2009 National Stroke Audit Acute Services and answered "yes" to the question "Does your hospital routinely assess all patients for the need for further rehabilitation?" They collated the results and drafted a report. Secondly, a literature review was conducted to establish broad evidence for indicators for rehabilitation and the best practice models of service delivery. Using the information from these two sources and the input of the expert working group, the project team developed an assessment process incorporating a decision-making path-way with supporting assessment tools. The assessment tool has been piloted at a number of sites across Australia and evaluation of the results is almost complete. They anticipate that the pilot evaluation will be completed by 30 November 2011 and the tool will be rolled out for implementation in 2012.

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

Another ASC priority 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' was piloted in a number of public and private hospitals across Australia. Evaluation of the health care professional feedback on the pilot has been completed and consumer evaluation is almost complete. A 2-3 page report summarising the results and providing rationale for modifying the care plan is to be completed. One more WG meeting is to be planned to review the report and the modified Care Plan. The Care Plan will be tabled for sign off by ASC representatives at the December meeting. The NSF will re-pilot the modified Care Plan as part of the Consumer resource.

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 of its priority areas. Currently, Australia has no nationally agreed strategy or framework for stroke education needs. The ASC has developed a Stroke Specific Education Framework (SSEF) which 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 covers the Stroke Care Continuum and relates to 14 elements of care. It was developed to promote strong inter-professional education and training and those who use the framework are encouraged to apply the framework in that context.

Since the SSEF was completed an implementation plan has been developed. Discussion of how to promote the wider use of the SSEF will take place at the next ASC representatives meeting.

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

TIA models of care project

This is a project that will produce a document outlining various models of TIA management suitable for adoption in the Australian context. The aim of the project is to assist in the implementation of the NHMRC Guideline recommendations for the management of patients with transient ischaemic attack (TIA) in local settings. This will be achieved by developing a national consensus statement outlining evidence-based best practice models of care for TIA. The project team has been finalised and work has commenced to draft the paper. The chair of the project team is Mark Parsons. The project plan has been agreed by the executive and will be circulated to ASC reps along with a status report about the other projects.

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. A project plan has been drafted and sent to the ASC executive for feedback. It is currently being redrafted.

2.0 Communications

ASC Newsletter

The next newsletter is planned for December following the full ASC representatives meeting.

3.0 Operations

Meetings

The next meeting of ASC representatives is a teleconference scheduled for 8 December 2011. The proposed date and place for the face-to-face meeting is Tuesday 3 April 2012 in Sydney.