

Secretariat report - November 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 Assessment for Rehabilitation and Decision-making Tool and supporting instruction manual has been designed and completed. A big thank you to QLD Statewide Stroke Clinical Network member, Cindy Dilworth for providing the funding for design and print.

Dissemination and implementation of the Tool is targeted toward all sites that admit stroke patients. The implementation of the tool is supported by PowerPoint slides and planning has begun for a podcast to be made. The UniSA has also commenced a PhD project in SA and four NSW hospitals to study the efficacy of the Tool.

Susan Hillier 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 has commenced.

Janine Coffin from NSF 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 agreed 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 has also been circulated to a wider audience for further consultation. Mark Parsons presented details of the paper to-date at the 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).

Data and Quality Improvement

The Data and Quality Improvement framework was disseminated throughout the ASC member organisations for comment and feedback. The feedback was very positive and member suggestions were integrated into the document. Next steps for the framework will be discussed at the next face-to-face meeting in 2013.

2.0 Operations

Applications from new organisations to join the ASC

The Australian Psychological Society and Orthoptics NSW have submitted applications for membership of the ASC. Both organisations have provided information to address the criteria contained within the ASC Terms of Reference. These applications will be reviewed and a decision made at the next ASC executive meeting scheduled for 1 November 2012.

Nomination of additional organisation representative – NSF

The ASC Terms of Reference allows for three organisational representatives from the SSA and the NSF. To-date the NSF has only nominated two representatives. Following recent restructure activity within the NSF, the NSF would like to nominate Rebecca Naylor, Director, Programs as their third representative on the ASC. This nomination will be ratified at the next ASC executive meeting on 1 November 2012.

3.0 Communications

ASC Annual report

The 2011-2012 ASC annual report was completed and has been published on the ASC website.

ASC Newsletters

Three newsletters have been published on the ASC website in 2012 – Summer, Autumn and Spring. The newsletters include excerpts from members reports.

ASC Website

The ASC website gained it's own web address and has a new look thanks to design funding provided by the NSF. Some ASC members have been using the site to promote their educational and professional development activities. For more information contact ASC secretariat (lwright@strokefoundation.com.au).