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BULLETIN

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Welcome to this 6th edition of the PCOC bulletin which we hope will keep readers informed about PCOC's progress and prompt discussion on the PCOC email list-server. The list-server is designed to be a group email for the purposes of disseminating information to and from all members on the list. Contact darcy@uow.edu.au if you are interested in participating.

Zone Coordinators Meeting

Zone Coordinators met in Sydney in September and reviewed an education program that services can incorporate into their orientation and ongoing education packages. This will enable PCOC to become a routine part of day to day clinical practice.

Newsflash

Scientific & Clinical Advisory Committee (SCAC)

At the recent SCAC meeting there was discussion about a protocol issue relating to whether or not an assessment can be done over the telephone and a phase change documented. Currently PCOC requires a face to face assessment to assign a phase change but this can be an unrealistic expectation especially for rural and remote services and can result in a phase not being changed. It was agreed that PCOC should allow telephone assessments and subsequent phase changes.

Patient and Carer Survey Reports

Twenty five services from seven states and territories, 570 patients and 486 carers participated in the PCOC Patient and Carer Experience surveys between October 2007 and June 2008. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly the way in which palliative care teams respected patients' dignity. Negative comments related to the speed in which symptoms are treated, inadequate information provided for the carer and to a perceived lack of palliative care resources.

Palliative Care Nurses Australia conference

Nurses from all over Australia and New Zealand attended a 2 day conference in Adelaide on September 12th and 13th. PCOC was represented by Deb Rawlings and Kathy Hendry who presented on emphasising the need to embed PCOC into the organisation. They gave examples of how the clinical assessment tools are being used in everyday practice, and how formalised frameworks and triggers for changes in care can help improve patient care and demonstrate outcomes.

Victorian Champions Network Group

Kathy Hendry, Vic Zone Coordinator is inviting representatives from services currently receiving reports to the first PCOC Victorian Champions Network Group. They plan to meet on the 19/11/08. Contact Kathy if you need further information.

PCOC Website:

http://chsd.uow.edu.au/pcoc/about_pcoc.html

