



AGINGS

Aged Care News and Snippets
 From the Aged Care Program of The Dandenong District Division of General Practice

AGED CARE PROGRAM EXTENSION

As part of the May 2007 Federal Budget announcements you may have heard that the Aged Care GP Panels Initiative is been extended to enable allied health service providers to be remunerated for participating in panels. The expansion will enable allied health professionals to work on quality improvement strategies for the care of residents from 1st July 2007. We currently have limited information about this, however, we will keep you informed as information comes to hand. Remember to keep checking our website for latest news.

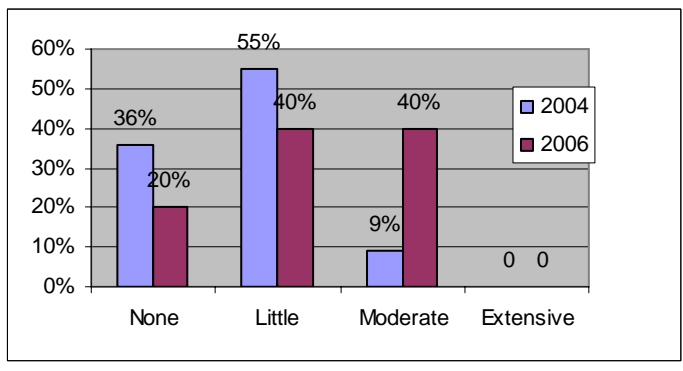
A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Since the beginning of the Aged Care Panels Program, staff from residential aged care facilities (RACF) have been asked to complete an annual survey and as you will be aware it is that time of year again. Surveys have recently been sent out for completion by the end of June, this is your opportunity to provide feedback about the work of the panel program.

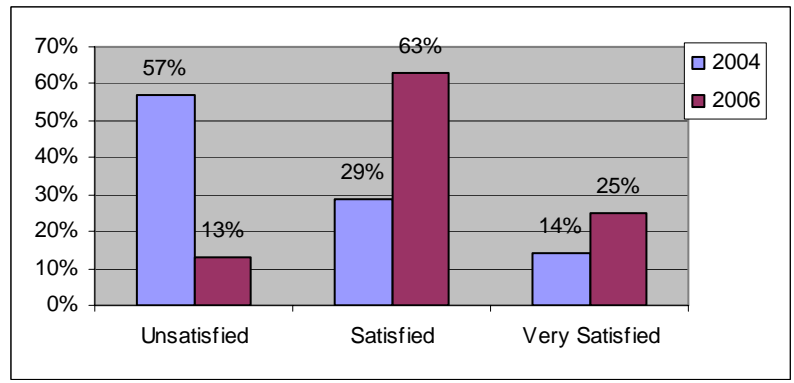
Below are some interesting statistics comparing results from the 2004 and 2006 surveys. These results highlight the value of the Aged Care Panels Program and particularly the increased involvement of GPs in quality activities within facilities.

Although not shown below the survey also highlighted once again the workforce pressures on GPs and the difficulty experienced by new residents obtaining access to GP services.

What level of involvement did GPs have in your facility's quality improvement activities?

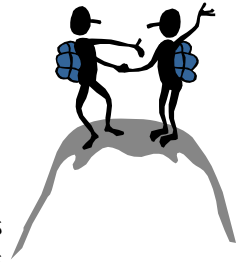


How satisfied were you with the quality of GP involvement in your facility's quality improvement activities?

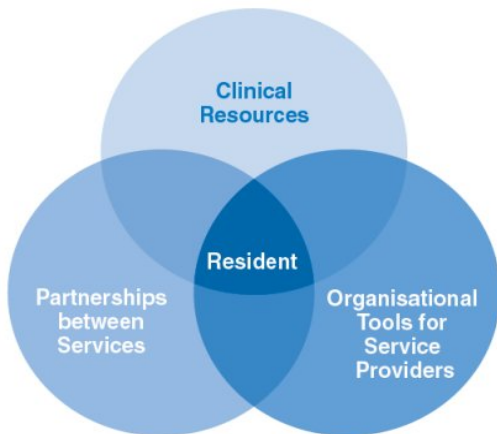


PARTNERSHIPS IN AGED CARE

Tools of The Trade—The General Practitioner and Residential Aged Care Kit



On Thursday 19th April and 3rd May, 20 GPs and 7 representatives from RACFs participated in the Tools of the Trade Education Evening and learnt tips and strategies for working more effectively in the management of aged care residents.



The education was facilitated by Dr Catherine Jeffrey and Dr Martin Robb. The first session acknowledged the difficulties faced by GPs and staff working in residential aged care facilities and highlighted the importance of having a patient centred approach and good communication processes.

The evening also outlined the MBS Items relevant to the aged care sector for undertaking Comprehensive Medical Assessments, Case Conferencing, Residential Medication Management Reviews and Contributing to Care Planning.

The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as "very useful" "excellent" "educational in a friendly enjoyable environment" One component of the education that participants found particularly beneficial was the case conference role play. A special thank you to all the participants who played parts of GP, difficult family members, aged care staff and specialists.

Helpful Hints from GP participants for undertaking CMAs (Comprehensive Medical Assessments):

- Develop a system with RACF to streamline process
- Notify NUM / DON of intent to do CMA 1-2 weeks before hand.
- Create an excel spreadsheet with details of all residents with details of CMA and RMMRs done, when last done.
- Utilise the practice nurse to organize a recall system for CMAs for aged care residents
- Arrange regular time slot to do CMAs.

Helpful Hints from GP participants for undertaking RMMRs (Residential Medication Management Reviews):

- Speak with Pharmacist and DON to organize a system for doing RMMRs
- Utilise RACF staff to assist to identify appropriate candidates for RMMRs
- Pharmacist to email/fax the list of RMMRs they are planning and then I (GP) send relevant information and referral.

All participants were provided with an extensive manual comprising of useful information, tools and templates. If you would like a copy of the kit please contact Julie Sutherland on 9706 7311.

Alternatively, you can access the document electronically via http://nwmkgp.org.au/pages/after_hours/

The Division website www.dddgp.com.au also has the following useful resources:

MBS Items in Aged Care, CMAproforma & factsheet, RMMR—Flow chart and sample form.

Click on > Resources then > Health Program then > Aged Care

CASE CONFERENCES - THE FUNDAMENTALS

	Time	Fee	Location		
			Community	RACF	Discharge
Organise & Coordinate	15-30min	\$83.75	Item 740	Item 734	Item 746
	30-45min	\$125.65	Item 742	Item 736	Item 749
	45min +	\$167.45	Item 744	Item 738	Item 757
Participate	15-30min	\$59.80	Item 759	Item 775	Item 768
	30-45min	\$95.70	Item 762	Item 778	Item 771
	45min +	\$131.55	Item 765	Item 779	Item 773

Who must be involved?	3 people (inc GP) involved in providing DIFFERENT care. (This can be GP, Patient Care Assistant, Registered Nurse)
Who can't be named as a case conference team member?	Carer or family (but can be involved.)
What has to be documented?	Problems Needs <i>Document patient consent in file</i> Goals Plan
What else should be done?	Explain to patient nature of case conference. Obtain & record patients agreement to case conference Record date and names of participants, start & end time. Discuss outcomes of conference with patient if you're the 'organiser' Invite carer or family member to attend if appropriate.
Should I arrange several case conferences in a block?	YES, But consider asking practice nurse or RACF staff to help and consider being the 'organiser'.
Can I claim case conferences arising opportunistically?	YES, So long as all the requirements are met.
How often can I claim	5 times a year per patient.
Are there any other types of case conferences.	YES There are GP/Specialist Item No's for Cancer Care (Item 871 & 872) There are separate case conference items for physicians and psychiatrists.

Useful Snippets

Have you checked all the useful information on the Divisions Website?

A huge variety of information can be found on the Divisions Web Site under Resources / Aged Care. The Division encourages resource sharing. If you have anything you feel would be useful, please contact Julie on 9706 7311.

www.dddgp.com.au

Click on > Resources then > Health Program then > Aged Care

Resources most frequently asked for include:

- Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment)
- Advance Care Planning Reference Card for GPs— Provides a Step by Step Approach
- Urine testing protocols
- Communication tools e.g. nurse initiated medications
- Comprehensive Medical Assessment Template



DIARY DATES

PALLIATIVE CARE EDUCATION FOR GPs AND RACF STAFF

The Palliative Care Working Group are currently in the process of organizing an interactive Palliative Care Education Evening for GPs and Residential Aged Care Facility staff.

This event is scheduled for **Wednesday 1st August 2007** at The Stamford Hotel, Cnr Stud Rd & Wellington Rd. This session will involve case based discussion with a panel of experts including Dr Irene Wagner Geriatrician, Mr Michael Wells from the Office of the Public Advocate, a Palliative Care Physician, Representatives from South East Palliative Care Intake Team and a local residential aged care facility. We will tackle some of the ethical considerations in Palliative Care. Look out for your invitation in the mail soon.

DON NETWORK MEETINGS

The next DON network meeting will be on **Wednesday 5th September, 12.15pm—1.30pm**. These forums are held at the Division office 314b Thomas Street, Dandenong and they provide a valuable opportunity for participants to network and share ideas and resources. Lunch is provided.

If you would like any further information about the Division's Aged Care program please contact the:

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