

ABI NMCN

Acquired Brain Injury – National Managed Clinical Network

Newsletter No. 3

Welcome to the third MCN newsletter

The aim of the National Managed Clinical Network for Acquired Brain Injury is to ensure equitable provision of high quality clinically effective services to this group throughout Scotland

The newsletter gives you a brief overview of work that is underway in the NMCN.

We are keen to build up a network of people interested in acquired brain injury. If you have received this newsletter indirectly and want to be on the mailing list please can you e-mail me on chris.flannery@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk.

We hope to have our own website before Christmas where all the information for the NMCN will be available. It should also act as a forum for discussion.

October 2007

Chris Flannery (MCN Manager)

Mapping services in Scotland

We are in the process of mapping the services for brain injury - using traumatic brain injury (tbi) initially and focussing on patients in the 16-65 age groups.

The purpose of the exercise is to establish what is happening now across Scotland. There is another piece of work underway to look at the standards for services. One exercise will tell us where we are, the other where we want to be. This will then help identify future work for the NMCN to progress services for people with ABI.

We aim to see key people along the tbi patient pathway (1 per section) in each health board area, realising that there are local initiatives, but in general those from:

- Accident & Emergency departments
- Wards providing observation
- Wards providing post-acute care and/or rehabilitation
- Continuing care units
- Neurosurgical units
- Community rehabilitation services

We ask each group about the detail of their part of the pathway and the interfaces between services. We also ask their perception about the effectiveness of the pathway and ask for any relevant audit info, if available.

Pen pictures of different types of patients are used.

This direct face-to-face approach has provided much better information than would be obtained by using a postal questionnaire. Occasionally we may use telephone interviews in future.

So far we have carried out 53 interviews and visited Forth Valley, Highland, Grampian and the Western Isles.

We have also met with people in the Borders, Ayrshire & Arran, Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Tayside, Lanarkshire and Lothian but still have visits to arrange. Dates for other areas have still to be arranged (Dumfries & Galloway, Fife, Orkney, Shetland and National Services)

Everywhere we have been people have been welcoming and informative.

The mapping report will hopefully be completed by the end of March 2008.

Steering Group

(Next meeting 14th Jan 2008)

There have been some additions and changes to the Steering Group since its first meeting in February 2007. The group now consists of:

Dr Brian Pentland	Consultant Neurologist	MCN Clinical Lead
Mr Bob Anderson	Health Board representative	
Mr William Bryden	Edinburgh Headway & carer	
Dr. Alan Carson	Consultant Neuropsychiatrist	
Ms Myra Duncan	Regional planning representative & Director for South East & Tayside	
Mr. Laurence Dunn	Consultant Neurosurgeon	
Ms. Christine Flannery	MCN Manager	
Ms. Shona Forsyth	Neuropaediatric Outreach Nurse	
Mr. Douglas Gentleman	Consultant in Brain Injury Rehabilitation	
Dr Jacques Kerr	Registrar A&E	
Ms. Bette Locke	Service Manager, Forth Valley Area Rehabilitation Team	
Ms Kitty Mason	Association of Directors of Social Work representative	
Dr. Phil Mackie	Specialist in Public Health Medicine	
Mrs. Ailsa McMillan	Lecturer Queen Margaret University	
Prof. Tom McMillan	Consultant Neuropsychologist	
Mr Kenneth Rutherford	Patient representative	
Dr. Lance Sloan	Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine	
Dr. Cameron Stark	Consultant in Public Health Medicine	

The Royal College of Psychiatry has been asked to nominate someone to fill the vacancy when Dr John Callender stepped down.

The group met for the third time on the 3rd of October where it heard progress reports for each of the work streams. It has also been discussing its remit and the latest draft is as follows.

The remit of the Steering Group is to -

To support and steer the development of the NMCN for ABI services in Scotland by

- a. Developing the strategic direction of the Network*
- b. Agreeing priorities for the annual work plan*
- c. Monitoring and evaluating progress*
- d. Actively promoting the concept of the network*
- e. Promoting and facilitating information collection and audit*

The group will next meet in January where, as well as reviewing progress, it will consider possible objectives for its 2008-2009 work plan.

There has also been some thought given to holding a national one-day event, where we can bring those people interested in ABI together. This would create an opportunity to discuss the findings and ideas from the four work groups.

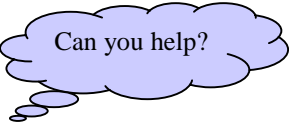
Minutes of the Steering Group are available if you want them. We hope to place the minutes from all of the groups on the website as soon as it is available.

The membership of the working groups can be found in the 2nd edition of the ABI MCN Newsletter

This group is currently working on collating the information requirements of patients & families. It is also finding out what, and in what format, information is currently available. It will then identify what information or format needs to be developed. Assessing the quality of information is also part of the work of this group.

The group has identified various reports and articles which describe what patients & families want. It has been contacting individuals and departments asking if they have developed or use particular information.

If you have developed patient information and have not been contacted, please could you contact Chris and let her know?



Can you help?

We are also working with Arlene Campbell (Patient Information Officer Project Manager NHS Lanarkshire) on the quality of information. Arlene is a member of the Patient Information Forum and the PIF representative for Scotland. For information about PIF, follow the link <http://www.pifonline.org.uk>

Web-based information



The information group has temporarily widened its membership in order to carry out some work on internet based information. If you type in 'brain injury' to Google you get over 13 million hits and 'head injury' will give you over 14 million. Even if you limit it to UK you still get between 1 and 2 million hits. Where do you start looking? We decided to do a piece of work to try and make looking for information easier.

The aim is to develop a (short) list of websites that professionals and patients & families might find helpful as a starting point when searching the web for information. A group of people are assessing and describing about 90 sites, which we will narrow down to a shorter list. We will then ask a wider range of people if they find them useful sites.

We will list the useful sites in the newsletter and on our own website, when we have it.

This, along with the other outcomes from the group, will be put into a report later this year.

Standards

Next meeting 7th Nov 2007

This group has identified guidelines and standards from the UK and elsewhere and is now drafting standard statements for wider discussion early next year. The standards will be grouped under titles or headings. Likely examples are: access to services, acute care, education, risk management etc and will be based on the patient's journey

Under each title there will be *Standard Statements*. Each statement will explain the level of performance to be achieved. For each Standard Statement there will be a *Rationale* section. This provides the reasons why the standard is considered important. It is here that the evidence base would be referred to.

Under each Standard Statement will be the *Criteria*, which are a series of descriptions of things you would expect to see that tell you if the standard is being achieved. The number of criteria can vary greatly.

Neurosciences Implementation Group and National Managed Clinical Network

The Neurosciences Implementation Group (NIG), which was set up to take forward the recommendations * of the Neurosciences Action Team, has established its own National MCN. The Network Manager is Fiona Maxwell and she can be contacted by e-mail fiona.maxwell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

They have issued a newsletter explaining the remit of the group and the NMCN.

It is important to note that this is a separate NMCN from the ABI-NMCN with a separate agenda. However we do stay in touch with Fiona and three members of our Steering Group are involved with the NIG.

Douglas Gentleman is on the Neurosciences NMCN Steering Group and chairs their NMCN Standards Group.

Laurence Dunn is on the Neurosciences NMCN Pathways & Protocols Group and the NMCN Audit & Outcomes Group.

Myra Duncan is on NIG and the NMCN Steering Group.

* Recommendations can be found in Delivering for Health pages 47- 48

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/02102635/26389>

New
report

'Review of services available to those with neurological conditions'.

http://www.nhshealthquality.org/nhsqis/controller?p_service=Content.show&p_applic=CCC&pContentID=3747

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland commissioned a stocktaking exercise of neurological services available in NHS Scotland from Scott-Moncrieff. This report has just been published.

In addition, NHS QIS has now appointed a clinical advisor, Dr Richard Metcalfe of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to develop the scope and evidence base for the development of a set of standards for the provision of services for those affected by neurological conditions

A project group will be appointed by NHS QIS in the near future to contribute to this work.

Contact us

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS



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