

August 2007

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Follow-up Audit

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second week of August. I hope that everyone is progressing well in the identification of patients for the follow-up audit.

What else have you done?

As well as using the tools provided by NPS during the intervention phase of APOP a number of hospitals have reported a variety of other project related activities undertaken to promote the key messages of APOP. System changes, such as updating observation charts, introduction of patient leaflets and implementation of a standard discharge information sheet, have been reported by some of the APOP hospital project teams. Other teams have written to the GPs in their local area informing them of the project and the initiatives being undertaken to improve the quality of care at the point of discharge for surgical patients.

We at NSW TAG would love to hear about these activities. If you have undertaken any additional APOP related activities please email a brief summary of your teams efforts to David Maxwell at the NSW TAG office (email: djmaxwell@stvincents.com.au).

Useful Links

The Institute for Safe Medicine Practices (ISMP) in the US has released a number of articles relating to opioid use. Specifically there is an article on the safety issues concerning the use of fentanyl patches in the acute pain setting and another article on reducing harm from opioids.

Please go to www.ismp.org/Newsletters/acutecare/recentarticles.asp to view these and other articles / medication safety alerts.

Clinical e-Audit

As reported in the previous newsletter the updated version of data collection tool for the follow-up audit of APOP is available on the APOP project website. Please go to www.nps.org.au/apop to download the database (user name and pass word required).

APOP Presentation

The 5th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care was recently held in Brisbane, Queensland, August 6th-8th. A poster was presented on behalf of the national project team that described the extensive networks created through the APOP initiative and highlighted some of the key findings of the baseline audit. I would like to acknowledge the Victorian state-project coordinator, Dr Kylie McIntosh, who attended this meeting on behalf of NPS and the entire project team.

APOP Timelines

July 1st to August 31st

- Patient identification and data collection

September 1st to September 30th

- Data entry and submission to NPS. All data is required by the end of September.

To do list:

- Continue the follow-up data collection phase.

- Fax your completed intervention activity log to NSW TAG (fax: 02 8382 3529).

- As you complete the follow-up data collection process please remember to fill out the follow-up data collection log.