

Issue 8
March 2007

Indicators update

Indicator evaluation almost complete

Following on from the successful education sessions held at the end of last year, the majority of hospitals have completed indicator testing. Almost all feedback sessions have been held, and this is expected to be complete within the next week.

Preliminary Feedback

Overall, feedback has been very positive with hospitals expressing strong support for the indicator set.

Preliminary analysis of the data shows that there has been broad agreement from hospitals that the concept behind each of the indicators is important, worthwhile measuring and likely to drive change.

Undertaking the more indepth testing of ten indicators has been a positive experience for hospitals. Many of the hospitals have reported that testing the indicators has uncovered gaps in the process required for provision of safe and quality use of medicines – even with very small sample sizes.

Some examples of this include:

- the redesign of a formulary submission form
- investigation into introduction of a medication reconciliation form
- introduction of the pneumonia severity index (PSI) in the emergency department
- consideration of a formal internal ADR reporting mechanism
- introduction of a VTE risk assessment form to be used on admission
- introduction of a warfarin initiation protocol

Hospitals have also provided useful feedback for improving the specifications of the indicators. This will improve the indicators collectability and usefulness.

Workshop planned

A workshop is planned for early May to resolve outstanding issues following analysis of the indicator feedback. With a number of indicators questions have been raised that will need more formal discussion. Questions are of both a general nature (eg regarding final classification of the indicator set) and specific to the details regarding certain indicators.

The list of the invitees to the workshop will be determined by the issues that need resolving after analysis and feedback has been completed.

Additional consultation

The project team is undertaking a parallel consultation process with other interested groups, in particular to gain further feedback regarding content validity of the proposed indicators. This feedback is expected to be received by the end of March.

ISMP tools update

The Australian Medication Safety Self Assessments were formally launched in NSW on February 28. The launch event included presentations from Roger Boyd, Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, Ms Penny Thornton, Professor Clifford F Hughes and a videoconference presentation from Mike Cohen and Allen Vaida from ISMP in the USA.

The web-based reporting application for the Medication Safety Self Assessment is now available on the Clinical Excellence Commission website at http://mssa.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/MSSA_introduction.html.

The web-based reporting application for the antithrombotic self assessment is expected to be available mid 2007.

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