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NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group

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Indicators update

Indicator evaluation commenced

To date 26 hospitals around the country have agreed to participate in evaluating the 52 indicators in the candidate set. This represents a mix of hospitals (metropolitan and rural, public and private, general and specialty) from NSW and interstate.

A number of hospitals have already started evaluating the indicators following successful education sessions for participating hospitals from NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

We thank The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission in Sydney for hosting these interactive sessions.

A further education session is also planned for hospitals from SA and WA.

What indicator evaluation involves

Participating hospitals have two main tasks for evaluating indicators:

1. Assessing content validity of all the indicators in the candidate set. The purpose of this task is to ensure that there is agreement from a wide variety of practitioners that the indicators in the candidate set cover issues of importance to clinical practice in hospitals. Specifications of the full set of indicators have been provided to assist hospitals in this task.
2. Testing approximately 10 indicators in a more indepth manner. This involves collecting information from about 10 patient records to assess the:
 - feasibility of collecting information for the indicators
 - clarity and appropriateness of the indicator specifications
 - usefulness of the indicators

The project team will gain individualised feedback at the end of the field test evaluation period from each of the participating hospitals.

Additional consultation

The project team is undertaking a parallel consultation process with other interested groups.

The feedback from the participating hospitals and additional stakeholder groups will inform the development of the final indicator set.

Timelines

This phase of the indicator evaluation is expected to be complete by February 2007.

ISMP tools update

Revisions to the two ISMP tools are now complete and work has commenced on the web-based reporting application. The web-based survey form will allow hospitals to enter their scores and receive a report back in real time. The web-based application will also facilitate comparisons with other peer group hospitals.

The website is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Phase 1 field test hospitals will be asked to do some useability testing shortly.

The tools are expected to be formally launched in NSW in early 2007 after which they will be made available to hospitals nationally.