



~ Thank You ~

The Members of the Interdisciplinary Research Committee take this opportunity to thank:

Poh-Lin Lim, Andrea Rodrigue, and Christy Ploegman for presenting on:

Best Practice on Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment
"Taking the Pressure Off...Back to Basics"
on Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Presentations may be viewed through the VGH Intranet (may be accessed in VGH Library if you do not have the internet)

Mind Benders

Can you complete this grid of letters. Each line is a valid 5 letter word with its first and last letters missing. The missing letters form a word when read downwards and the same word appears both at the start and at the end. What is the missing word?

- *OMI*
- *EVE*
- *ROM*
- *OAK*
- *ATC*

Answer: clash



Membership

- Dr. Wendy Fallis, Co-Chair, CIARE
- Christine Shaw-Daigle, Co-Chair, Library
- Carol Dola, CIARE
- Janet Evans, Pharmacy
- Olsen Jarvis, Respiratory (CGH)
- Margaret Juan, Nursing
- Jan Kippen, PACU
- Franca Kiz, Research Nurse
- Shauna Leeson, Mature Women's Centre
- Poh-Lin Lim, Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Irene Ling, Rehabilitation
- Dr. Michelle Lobchuk, University of Manitoba
- Cynthia Moorby, Manager of Education Services
- Bonnie Persowich, Oncology
- Andrea Rodrigue Nutrition/Food Services
- Donna Romaniuk, Director, Medicine & Oncology
- Tracy Simcoe, Manager of Respiratory
- Brigit Waples, VGH Foundation



RESEARCH LINK

A Quarterly Publication by the Interdisciplinary Research Committee

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VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL



2007 CIARE Summer Research Assistants



Chichi Asagwara Thomas Fudge Jessica Leskowski

Conference/Publication Corner

- In the Summer 2007 issue of Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research (Volume 68,(2),103-106), **Talia Hassan, MSc, RD** (VGH Clinical Dietician), Gail Marchessault, PhD, PHEc, RD, Marian Campbell, PhD, RD, Department of Human Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB; Bruce Huhmann, PhD, College of Business Administration & Economics, New Mexico State University, NM, USA published "**Messages About Calcium and Weight In Canadian Women's Magazines**"
- June 1-3, 2007, **Olsen Jarvis, RT**, Concordia Hospital and CIARE Interdisciplinary Research Committee member attended the CSRT conference in Montreal. Of interest were the number of sessions on teamwork, communication, and patient safety.
- In April 2007, **Pat Cuddy, CRN, OR**, attended the Operating Room Nurses of Canada (ORNAC) National Conference in Victoria, BC and received a research grant from ORNAC and Cardinal Health for her research paper titled "**An Examination of Learning Styles in a Multigenerational Environment**" Pat is currently working on condensing her paper in order to publish a summary for the ORNAC journal.
- June 24-27, 2007, **Cathy Schlosser, CRN**, Urology OR, attended the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Urological Association in Quebec City. The main topic of interest was Research, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Prostatic Carcinoma. There were presenters from across Canada, USA, and Europe. The Urological Nurses of Canada presented Dr. Diane Heritz, speaking about "**Impact of Overactive Bladder**", sponsored by Triton.

~ Upcoming Events From CIARE~

Thursday, **October 18, 2007**, Public Evening Presentation (Canad Inns - Fort Garry)
"The Many Faces of Dementia: Alzheimer's Disease and More - What you should know as families & caregivers" presented by Dr. Barry Campbell

Open to the Public and VGH Staff/Physicians/Volunteers



Evidence Based Wound Management by Tracking Wound Progress Using Visitrak

Submitted By: Poh-Lin Lim Research Assistant: Chichi Asagwara



Currently, the protocol at Victoria General Hospital (VGH) for wound measurement is the manual method (length x width x depth). The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) also traces the wound onto the backing of sterile dressings to gain a picture of the wound, helping her to assess wound progress. Visitrak is a computerized device that claims to: improve the method of wound measurement; provide more accurate data; reduce assessment time; and incorporate wound tracing. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to determine an efficient evidenced based wound tracking method that is transferable to VGH acute care staff and to trial the Visitrak wound measuring device. Randomly selected patients with various wounds requiring CNS intervention were assigned to have a manual or Visitrak method of wound measurement completed by the CNS during wound care. Additionally, a digital picture was taken of randomly selected patient's wounds after signed consent had been given. A survey regarding wound measurement and the digital pictures was sent to staff members involved with each patient's care. Average time for wound measurements using Visitrak were faster than with the manual method. The CNS found over time Visitrak became easier to use, and found the grids sheets to be more useful than the backing of sterile dressings.



Baby Doll Therapy: Intervention for Behavioral Disturbances in Alzheimer's Disease

Submitted By: Donna Romaniuk Research Assistant: Jessica Leskowski



Given the increasing age of the average Canadian and the prevalence of dementia, the care of the aged is expected to be the single most influential pressure on the health care system for the next 30 years. As such it will become increasingly important to have effective strategies in place for the management of dementia and its associated symptoms. As an alternative to the pharmacological treatment commonly relied upon, Doll Therapy is an approach that attends to the individual needs of the patient. Literature has shown the use of dolls to be an effective intervention within long-term care facilities, improving the well-being of individuals with dementia. The benefits are observed over a period of time as the patient develops a therapeutic bond with the doll. These benefits include an increase in stimulation, communication, and contentment as well as a decrease in agitation and aggression. In this study, life-like baby dolls were introduced to six patients at VGH. All six patients displayed a positive initial reaction to the doll but only three chose to keep the doll. Of the three who kept the doll, records of doll usage and caregiver interviews were used to evaluate the use of dolls within an acute-care environment. Anecdotal evidence has shown Doll Therapy to have potential benefits for some patients but is not suitable for all individuals with dementia. While providing companionship and diversion, the use of dolls has also raised practical and ethical concerns, such as sanitation and infantilization respectively. Therefore, although Doll Therapy has been enthusiastically supported by some, opinions of staff and family members of patients remain largely polarized. In terms of both staff and patient reactions, this study has provided valuable experimentation of a nonpharmacological treatment option for patients with dementia in an acute-care setting.

- DEFINITIONS -

Research Base - The accumulated body of knowledge accrued from a number of research studies about the phenomena.

Data-based Literature - Reports of completed research studies. Also known as empirical literature, research, or scientific literature.



A Controlled Trial of a Structured Oxygen Weaning Protocol Compared with Standard Care in Medical Inpatient Unit

Submitted By: Dr. Al Lipson Research Assistant: Thomas Fudge



Oxygen Therapy (OT) is the provision of supplemental oxygen in order to prevent or treat low levels of oxygen in the blood (hypoxia). Tell-tale symptoms that warrant the administration of OT are dyspnea (labored breathing), tachypnea (rapid breathing), and cardiorespiratory failure. The reoccurring issue concerning OT for patients admitted to inpatient medical units is that their provision of oxygen will continue for longer than required. This may be due to the current weaning protocol not being initiated in a timely fashion or that its completion takes too long. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a newly developed oxygen weaning protocol in comparison to standard operating procedures on medical inpatient units at the VGH. Having patients on oxygen for longer than required costs the medical system money. Although these costs seem small, they are significant. Similar studies have seen marked decreases in length of time on oxygen and substantial savings on monthly oxygen costs. Using inpatient medical units, we compared the newly developed protocol that Respiratory Therapists (RT) are responsible for implementing, against the standard protocol in place, which Registered Nurses (RN) currently implement. Briefly, we found that RTs were willing to decrease patient's oxygen flow rate during weaning by a greater amount than RNs. However, no differences between the two groups were found for the length of weaning. It is recommended that this pilot study be expanded to cover a larger patient population. The current study had too few patients for any statistically significant conclusions to be drawn.



Effectiveness of an Allergy/Intolerance Status Form on Improving Documentation of Patient Allergy Information in the Pharmacy Information System and Patient Record

Submitted By: Patrick Fitch Research Assistant: Chichi Asagwara



Allergies and intolerances are an everyday reality for many people. They affect how a person lives, in terms of their diet, health, and social life. Often times, people incorrectly use the words allergy and intolerance synonymously. This misinformation may impact how they are medically and pharmacologically treated while in hospital. In many instances provided data is also incompletely documented resulting in the hospital pharmacy system then having inaccurate or incomplete allergy and intolerance information on the patient. The Allergy/Intolerance Status Form (AISF) (first implemented at the VGH on April 16th, 2007) is the one reliable go-to source for pharmacists to collect a patient's allergy and intolerance history, along with the resulting reactions. The purpose of this project was to determine through a review of 400 charts if implementation of the AISF improved the occurrence and accuracy of allergy documentation within the patient record and pharmacy information system. In addition, feedback from nursing staff helped to determine if revisions to the AISF were required. A literature and pharmacy information system review was also completed for additional information. Results showed almost all AISFs were partially completed, mostly due to non-critical information (e.g. missing initials, dates, and designations). Documentation of allergy/intolerance information on key patient record documents has worsened since implementation of the AISF. Also, multiple unacceptable abbreviations were being used. This may be due to staff becoming reliant on the AISF to be their source of allergy information. Nursing feedback indicated that the form required too many signatures and that it should not be used in ER. Our recommendations include: revising the AISF; more thorough follow-up by pharmacy for incomplete AISFs; and re-educating nursing staff on appropriate documentation of all forms, including elimination of abbreviations.