

TO: G-I-N BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: Sue Huckson

To INFORM the Board of the progress and achievements of the G-I-N Emergency Care Community to date.

Background

In 2007 Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia established an 'on-line' or 'virtual' community to support the collaboration of emergency care practitioners internationally. The aim of this initiative was to provide a 'virtual' space for collaboration to share their expertise and work together on aspects of evidence based guidelines from guideline development to implementation. This activity fits with the priority set by G-I-N Board of Trustees in 2008 to provide opportunities to:

- Share interests, exchange knowledge and experiences, and
- Connect people and increase dialogue.

Discussion

The G-I-N Emergency Care (EC) Community has established a unique partnership and collaboration between G-I-N, NHMRC and the emergency care sector. There is strong support from leading emergency clinicians internationally that recognises the value of collaboration to reduce duplication of work and to develop recommendations based on guidelines for emergency care in developing and developed nations. There is a wealth of useful information in high quality guidelines but in many instances this is unknown or unavailable to emergency care providers.

The initial tasks set in establishing the G-I-N EC Community were to garner interest, develop an agreed purpose for the community, identify common topics of interest and test methods to generate discussion and share information and expertise, all of which has been achieved.

Outcomes To Date

A membership of 44 people from 8 countries representing health practitioners (medical, nursing and paramedics), G-I-N staff and executive, NHMRC staff and researchers.

Strong support from practicing clinical leaders who contribute and provide their expertise including: Professor Matthew Cooke (Warwick University, UK), Professor Peter Cameron (Monash University, Australia) and Professor Maaret Castren (Karolinksa Institute, Sweden).

Engagement and potential partnership with the International Federation of Emergency Medicine which has 24 member organisations and 20 affiliated member organisations.

A summary of activities:

- establishment of core objectives and purpose
- establishment of a password protected site as the repository of information
- development of a list of 10 clinical questions or issues submitted to be prioritised
- a review of guideline recommendations for Community Acquired Pneumonia

provision of support and expertise for the implementation of guideline recommendations to reduce CT scanning for minor head injuries in Brazil

development of a draft resource reviewing guideline recommendations and current clinical practice related to emergency management of hypoglycaemia.

Benefits for G-I-N

Increased exposure of the Community membership and their associated professional bodies to G-I-N and G-I-N related activities

Access to a speciality with limited guidelines developed specifically for emergency care

Active partnership with NHMRC and opportunity to build on expertise related to networks

Current Challenges

Matching resource and capacity to Community expectations and scope of activity

Lack of Community leadership - the establishment of the steering group will address this

Maintaining effective and regular communication to maintain interest and participation in 'virtual communities' requires time and effort

Lack of capacity and time to explore new technology and alternative web based applications to support Community participation

Loss of NHMRC based administrative support to maintain currency of the wiki space

Resources

G-I-N contributes:

annual subscription of 155 Euros (\$200 US) for a password restricted wiki site
access to G-I-N administrative staff, and
G-I-N executive support and sponsorship

NHMRC contributes:

co-ordinator, 3hrs per week on average
administrative support, 1-2hrs per week on average up to July 2008
NHMRC organisational support to undertake co-ordination of the EC
Community

Future Opportunities

Further partnerships or links with:

the Cochrane Pre-hospital and Emergency Care field [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.cochranep ehf.org/news.php>"

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professional nursing bodies, and

the Pre-hospital sector

Informing a research agenda as gaps in knowledge arise related to identifying recommendations for practice in various health care settings

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