Welcome to the 14th Newsletter for the Statewide Orthopaedic Clinical Network and the first issue for 2010. Newsletters are available via the SA Health website, located under Statewide Clinical Networks.

General information

There are major changes within the Orthopaedic Clinical Network Steering Committee with Chris Cain stepping down from the Chair position. Chris will be closing his Adelaide practice to take up an exciting opportunity which has been presented to him in the United States.

It will be a great loss to the network, as Chris in this leadership role the Orthopaedic Clinical Network has achieved some very distinctly progressive work for orthopaedic services across South Australia. All members of the Orthopaedic Clinical Network committees thank Chris for his hard work and commitment and wish him all the very best in his future pursuits.

The Orthopaedic Clinical Network welcomes Dr Andrew Saies to the chair position to commence on 1 May 2010. Andrew has extensive knowledge and experience in orthopaedics in South Australia and this will make him an asset to this leadership role. Andrew can be contacted on the following email address andrew.saies@sportsmed.com.au

Committee Membership

As the work of the Orthopaedic Clinical Network moves into the implementation phase the membership of the committees will be reviewed with consideration given to succession planning and appropriate representation.

Arthroplasty

The Project Manager of the ADAM Project, Chris Doerr has stepped down from this role to take up a role in the Orthopaedic Department at the Repatriation General Hospital. We thank Chris for her contribution and hard work in both the development of the ADAM Proposal and the implementation of aspects of the project, and wish her all the best in her new venture. We welcome Sam Miller as the new Project Manager for the ADAM Project. Sam has extensive experience in orthopaedics as a CNC in the ward at the RAH and more recently with teaching in the orthopaedic nursing program at Adelaide University.

The ARAC clinics have commenced at the RAH and LMH with both progressing well. To date the RAH have commenced with small numbers however with additional resources for assessors now in place, the numbers in the clinics will be expanded. Once both these sites are well organised and settled, work will commence with Modbury Hospital on the ARAC, with preliminary investigations into clinic space and times already underway.

Preliminary talks have occurred with key country personnel regarding information of the ARAC’s in the country and how aspects of these clinics can be introduced into practice to assist with patient outcomes.
Rehabilitation

The Models of Care document for Fragility Fractures, General Orthopaedic Trauma and Arthroplasty is near completion. The document was presented at the Orthopaedic Clinical Network Steering Committee this month with agreement on the content of the document.

The Rehabilitation Clinical Network Steering Committee will table this document at their meeting in April 2010. Once sign off by both the Network Steering Committees has occurred the Models of Care document will progress through the appropriate channels within SA Health. This document will become a reference regarding the resources needed, and structure of orthopaedic rehabilitation services around the state.

Thank you to all members of the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Steering Committee and Work Groups for their hard work in the development of this document.

Trauma

With the promise of funding from SA Health commencing on 1 July 2010, the first four Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon positions have been advertised in the Advertiser, the Australian and on-line, with expressions of interest closing on 31 March 2010. The interviews will be held in April, with representation across the major metropolitan hospitals on the panel. Once decisions have been made on the candidates, recommendations will be made to the relevant hospitals, and the appointees will take up their positions, based at the RAH and FMC from 1 July 2010, with 2 positions at each hospital respectively. Data around the KPI’s developed by the orthopaedic Trauma sub Committee are currently being collected across sites by SA Health. This will provide baseline information prior to the commencement, and will assist in evaluating the contribution these surgeons make to our health system. The agreed KPI’s are:

- Length of stay
- Unplanned readmission
- Unplanned return to Theatre
- Length of procedures
- Supervision of Trainees

These KPI’s will be used to monitor the introduction and implementation of the Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon positions, with this being an essential element of these roles and the continued movement towards improved management of trauma throughout South Australia.

Other Information

Orthopaedic Profile for South Australia

Work has commenced on the collection of information for the development of an orthopaedic profile for South Australia. Updates on this work will be relayed as data is interrogated and collated.

Orthopaedic Implants

Further engagement by the Network has occurred with the Supply and Procurement Department at SA Health. The agreement was that collaborative work will be undertaken in regard to the management and rationalisation of orthopaedic implants used in South Australia.

Further Information

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