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Communiqué

14 September 2018

Highlights

Exciting developments are afoot with the national trauma programme of work. ACC recently approved our business case to secure a more sustainable and structured approach for the next five years. The funding will enable New Zealand to achieve its goal of a contemporary trauma system across all of the country. The benefits we expect to see are fewer deaths due to trauma, less disability for those that survive, and a more productive health system.

Over the next few months we will be working to implement a number of new initiatives:

- Analysis of the three years of data now in the NZ-MTR so we can accurately describe the patterns of trauma in each DHB, region, and nationally
- A performance improvement program tailored for trauma care so that providers in the trauma system can identify improvements and changes
- An academic-led research program to support research on specific areas of trauma care, such as traumatic brain injury, trauma in specific population groups such as Maori, children, and the elderly

In time we also plan to implement work to better understand the long-term outcomes of trauma patients. This work has proven enormously helpful in Victoria, and we hope to emulate similar findings in New Zealand.

Work underway

These plans are in addition to other work which is currently underway:

Trauma Team Training in Emergency Departments

Three pilot sessions of Networkz™ trauma team training simulations over the next few months. These are based on the previous Operating Room program and success overseas which show improvements in outcomes through simulation training. An indicative view of the impact of the training to improve trauma team functioning is expected at the end of the pilots, as well as the cost to roll it out nationally.

SORTED

The Study of Road Trauma Evidence and Data (SORTED) study is a systematic analysis of seven datasets to quantify the burden of road trauma in New Zealand. We are in the first proof of concept stage which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. This study is enabled by three new data sources; NNPAC (non-admitted patients), the ambulance electronic run form, and the New Zealand Major Trauma Registry.

Australian Trauma Registry

We will be sending the 2017-18 data from the NZ-MTR to Australia. This will enable us to benchmark our performance with similar sized hospitals in a comparable context. This is one key part of our work to test the performance of the New Zealand trauma system.





Education and Training

There have been over eight trauma training sessions or symposiums this year, with a further three planned. This is a significant increase on previous years and an encouraging sign of the growing interest in trauma. The ACC Incentive Fund which is paid pro rata to regions based on entries to the NZ-MTR is a key enabler to trauma education for nurses and allied health.

NZ-MTR

There have been 16 requests for data from the New Zealand Major Trauma Registry, with signs of growing interest among academics which we are especially keen to foster. Data integrity initiatives are continuing to assure the quality of data in the NZ-MTR.

Shortly we will also be commencing work on these workstreams:

Information for trauma patients and whanau

Information for trauma patients and their whanau is lacking. A working group will be set up to look at the options we can explore to address this gap.

Professional development for trauma nurses

Aspects of trauma are included in existing postgraduate programs, however they do not cover trauma case management and performance improvement. A second working group will be set up to look at the core skills and knowledge needed, and the different areas of expertise which trauma nurses can follow.

Rehabilitation

Unanswered questions persist in the rehabilitation space, such as whether we have a reasonable level of consistency of rehabilitation across the country and what the key issues are for patients, their whanau, and providers. A study looking at rehabilitation for trauma patients in New Zealand is being explored.



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The developments in the national trauma program are exciting and will help us achieve a contemporary trauma system across all New Zealand. We will keep you informed of developments as they happen.

*Any queries please email
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