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Communiqué

March 2019

Highlights

Efforts to achieve a world-class trauma system in New Zealand are progressing well. Here are some of the highlights.

HQSC, ACC and the National Major Trauma Network

This week ACC reached agreement with the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC) to support the national programme of work by delivering:

- performance improvement across the trauma system, to create a system that learns and evolves
- analytics and research so that our work is data driven and based on hard evidence
- long term outcomes survey to enable us to understand how injured people cope at home so we can better support their recovery

HQSC, ACC and the National Trauma Network will work together over the next five years to realise our goals of fewer deaths due to trauma, less disability for those that survive, and cost savings across the health system.

Our thoughts are with the Christchurch clinical teams who have our support in the aftermath of mosque shootings.

2017-18 Annual Report

With over 5,000 patients entered into the New Zealand Major Trauma Registry over three years, we are starting to see patterns of injury emerge. Improvement in key process measures are noted with more patients receiving diagnostic imaging within 2 hours of arrival to hospital, and more patients are being taken directly from scene to the best hospital that can care for their injuries.

The overall case fatality rate has reduced, and the rate of haemorrhage which is potentially avoidable has also reduced from 15% to 9% of all deaths.

Further work will be undertaken to understand the apparent variation in patterns of serious traumatic brain injury and how our outcomes compare to other jurisdictions. The overrepresentation of Maori in injury continues to concern us and we are working with researchers to understand this better. Initial work to risk adjust in-hospital deaths to severity of injury and age has identified areas to focus effort to ensure injured people receive a consistent level of care regardless of where their injury occurred.

SORTED Study

The proof of concept phase for the *Study of Road Trauma Evidence and Data (SORTED)* is completed and for the first time we can accurately quantify the burden of road traffic injury in New Zealand. Five agencies worked with seven databases resulting in agreed definitions of severity of injury, and what is included and excluded in road trauma. The proof of concept exceeded expectations and we are working with central government to extend the study.



Trauma Team Training in Emergency Departments

Three pilot training sessions were delivered in Auckland, Nelson and Wellington. The evaluation of these was enormously positive and highlighted issues around processes (“why is the tourniquet not here”) and communication (“I thought you meant I should stop applying pressure on the bleeding”).

Given the success of the training which uses high fidelity scenarios and interactive models to test trauma teams in Emergency Departments, the national work programme will fund six more sessions over the next 18 months. In the meantime alternative funding sources will be identified for full national roll-out.

TOPIC Training

Trauma Outcomes Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC) is a foundation training course for the *Trauma Quality Improvement Program* implemented in most major trauma hospitals in the United States.

For the first time TOPIC was taught in New Zealand in two sessions, training 79 people (32 doctors, 34 nurses, 5 ambulance personnel, and 8 others). We were privileged to have as faculty Dr Don Jenkins and Kathleen Martin who developed the course initially and are regarded as world leaders in trauma performance improvement.

We are excited about the progress being made across the whole of the trauma system. We are well on our way to achieving a contemporary trauma system in New Zealand and have identified areas of concern to work on, and cutting edge initiatives to change the trauma system to deliver better outcomes for patients. We will keep you informed of developments as they happen.

*Any queries please email
info@majortrauma.nz*

National meetings

Over 80 people attended the National Trauma Stakeholder meeting and the National Trauma Nurses and Data Managers meetings in March and provided an excellent opportunity to network and shape the future direction of the national programme of work.



Congratulations

Two members of the trauma network have received honors from the Order of St John for their services:

Dr James Moore is awarded with Commander, and **Bridget Dicker** with Officer.

Matt Sawyer has been accepted into the Faculty of AAAM to become New Zealand's first Automated Injury Score trainer.