

Clever Health Update May 08

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Virtual Consultation—regional first

The month of May heralded the first urgent consultation between a patient based in Horsham and a Ballarat based clinician. The recently commissioned mobile VC unit (aka Intern II) was wheeled up to the Horsham bedside and the clinician based in Ballarat worked with the patient, via a wireless connection.

This method of enabling the consultation meant that the additional 4 hours travelling for the patient either via personal transport or Ambulance didn't occur—miles saved, services provided and we even saved carbon.

Clever Health can deliver advantages for regular service delivery not just the emergency situation. If you think this innovative method of service delivery offered by the Clever Health project may be of benefit to you or your agency then please contact Gayle to discuss.



The Intern at Stawell in action

Interns—no not the latest group of junior doctors:

The next group of mobile Videoconference equipment (Intern IIs) is scheduled for delivery to the emergency areas of Nhill, Edenhope, St Arnaud, Bacchus March and East Grampians. The units based at Stawell and Horsham have been very useful in allowing staff to assess their use, trial the attached digital peripherals which include an otoscope, ophthalmoscope, a dermatology probe and a general camera.

Policies for infection control and patient consent have been drafted and will be standard across the region. Working groups are being established in each site to support the training required to establish their use. We are exploring the links with the metro hospitals to provide critical care support and assistance.



GPs embracing technology

GPs are embracing videoconferencing technology across the region. WestVic Division of General Practice are beginning to use the videoconference network across the region to support the delivery of services to GPs and the practice staff. WestVic recently trialed the technology to hold a meeting for their Board which saved significant time and money in the reduction of travel requirements. They are also using the network to deliver training for practice nurses and facilitating discussion groups for GPs.

Presentation at the Allied Health Conference in Ararat Wednesday April 30th

Claire Letts presented the Clever Health Project's objectives to a groups of about 50—60 allied health workers from the region in Ararat, and was delighted at the excited responses and questioning received from the audience. Many could see an application for the VC technology in their own work practices to reduce travelling, make it easier to keep in contact with Melbourne based Special Interest Groups, research groups and access or provide mentoring and peer support for staff across the region.

Opportunities are starting to open up across the region—if you require assistance please contact the Clever health project office.

Working Group Reports: the Clever Health project is managed by a series of Working Groups which provide an avenue for input a decision making by representatives of the health services in the region. Representatives on the Steering Group include Claire Letts (SRH), Darren Welsh (WWHS), Allan Donnelly (DHS), Shaun Eldridge (WHCG), Tracey Wilson (BHS), Patrice Braun (UoB), Kathy Huett (EDMH) as well as a number of regional representatives. There is also an Emergency and Maternity Working group as well as Primary Mental Health Working Group. The terms of reference of these groups are available and their work will be profiled in coming updates.

Evaluation of Videoconferencing - we are seeking your opinion of the videoconferencing network and your experience of using it as part of our drive to improve the service offered by GRHANet and the Clever Health project to the health services in the region.

All you need to do is click on the link listed below and it will take you directly to a short web based survey.

http://www.cric.com.au/cb_pages/vcsurvey.php

Thank you for your time in doing this survey

Training

One feature of the Clever Health project which has just become available is the ability to record videoconferences. This will be particularly useful where training is required to be delivered but it is difficult to get all staff together at the one time—herding cats....

You will need to send a request through to GRHANet to set up a folder and to add in the recording equipment to the videoconference. There is a small cost to this and GRHANet will store recordings for a period of three months. Recordings can be played back either on a VC unit or an individual PC or downloaded and printed to a DVD.

If you think this service will be of value please make sure you have copies of the GRHANet policies and request forms—talk to the staff of GRHANet well in advance of the VC

