

Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program The MSOAP Update

November 2009

Huntington's Disease Clinics

The MSOAP Advisory Forum recently approved the commencement of a neuro psychiatry service specialising in patients with Huntington's Disease.

The clinics will be run by Dr Mark Oakley Browne and will be offered on a monthly basis from Adult Community Mental Health (ACMHS), 34 Oldaker St Devonport for an initial 6 month period.

Huntington's disease (HD) is a genetic neurological disorder. Globally, Huntington's disease (HD) is estimated to affect five to seven people per 100,000. In 1989, a prevalence study (Pridmore) recorded that HD affected twelve people per 100,000 in Tasmania. Current estimates put the prevalence of Huntington's Disease at 14 people per 100,000.

The onset of HD typically begins in mid-life, and is characterised by involuntary movements, emotional and behaviour problems and often intellectual impairment.

Clients may be able to access the Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (PTAS) to reimburse some of the costs of travelling from intrastate for this clinic. For more information on PTAS and the reimbursements available please refer to the DHHS website www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ptas.

For more information on Huntington's Disease please contact the Tasmanian Huntington's Disease Association Inc. on 03 6431 3403 or www.huntingtonaustralia.asn.au/tasmania.html.

Endocrinology Clinics

A new endocrinology service visiting Queenstown has recently been approved by the MSOAP Advisory Forum.

The clinics will be offered by Dr Roland McCallum, specialising in diabetes, and will be run for two days every six (6) months. This service has been initially approved until June 2010.

Dr McCallum currently provides an endocrinology educational and upskilling program funded by MSOAP to the North West and West coasts. This education program, organised by GP North West assists local medical practitioners to identify and manage patients with diabetes, and is free for participants.

If you would like to take advantage of the current endocrinology education program offered by Dr McCallum please contact GP North West on 03 6432 1440 or

www.gpnw.com.au/diabetes.html for details of Dr McCallum's next session.

For more information on diabetes and the services available in Tasmania please refer to the DHHS website www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/understanding_health_conditions/related_topics/diabetes or the Diabetes Australia website www.diabetesaustralia.com.au.

MSOAP Annual Review

M SOAP in Tasmania currently has 49 approved services in 21 specialties at 18 locations across the state.

A full review of the services provided by MSOAP will begin in January. This review will form the basis for planning for the 2010/2011 financial year.

The review aims to ensure that all MSOAP services are targeted in communities and in specialties that are of a high need. The annual review is also used to identify new specialties of high need.

The MSOAP Annual Review surveys participating specialists, community GPs, DHHS rural hospitals and community health centres.

The feedback from these surveys is combined with clinical statistics and financial information to provide a report to the Commonwealth Government. This information will also be used to determine future need for MSOAP services in Tasmania.

New Services

New specialist service proposals are considered by the MSOAP advisory forum. A new service must meet some basic conditions related to local need, available support, capacity to integrate into existing services and value for money.

The proposal forms and guidelines can be found at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/medical_specialist_outreach_assistance_program_msoap

Contact Us

Further information on MSOAP can be found on the internet <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/Publishing.nsf/Content/ruralhealth-services-msoap>.

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