

Allied health-led vestibular collaborative

Background

A collaborative was formed between the RBWH and TPCH as lead sites and Cairns, QEII, PAH, Townsville, Redcliffe, Toowoomba, Nambour, Mackay, Mater, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Hervey Bay Hospitals (participating sites). The aim of the project was to expand and evaluate primary contact allied health-led vestibular services in the acute and specialist outpatient department (SOPD) settings including both physiotherapy and audiology services.

Activities and Deliverables

Physiotherapy project representatives engaged with participating sites to:

- promote the models of care for new sites to the Vestibular Collaborative
- provide ongoing support and monitoring to existing spoke sites as a means of facilitating their implementation
- facilitate education and training for physiotherapy site representatives, including clinical placements (work shadowing and assessment/treatment clinics)
- develop a statewide network with regular meetings and education sessions via videoconference
- develop a Capability framework for vestibular physiotherapists to enable ongoing training for primary contact positions in order to facilitate sustainability and succession planning
- finalise a MARS data entry form to measure service effectiveness and efficiency at lead and spoke sites.

Audiology resources developed include:

- “Indicators for referral to Audiology” form for vestibular physiotherapists
- “Vestibular case history form and contraindications addendum” for audiologists
- “Vestibular Competency Standard and Vestibular Competency Assessment Tool” for audiologists
- database of audiology resources in Queensland Health and the community.

Results to date

- three sites commenced SOPD screening services in this funding round
- six sites have more than doubled their capture of patients with vestibular dysfunction in their acute/ED services
- seven sites have established (or are in the process of establishing) links between physiotherapy and audiology via public services (within their Hospital and Health Service) where no previous link existed
- three sites have identified local private referral options for audiology services and are in the process of establishing referral pathways.

Contacts

Ian Parker, Physiotherapist E: ian.parker@health.qld.gov.au

Caroline Balke, Audiologist E: caroline.balke@mater.org.au