

Canadian Physiotherapists in Hemophilia Care (CPHC)

Membership

As noted last year, the CPHC membership has remained stable in terms of numbers of clinics represented, with the majority of our clinics retaining the same therapists – adding to a greater depth of experience across the country.

That said it does seem that significant turnover occurs every few years due to retirements, maternity leaves, and staff members moving on to different caseloads within their health care centres. As such, I would very much like to see the new team workshops organized by the CHS and coordinated with the annual meetings of our various professional groups continue every three years or thereabouts – open to all of the core team members who have less than three years of hemophilia experience.

Last year we added a new clinic therapist to the CPHC ranks from the adult clinic in Calgary, which was at the time newly formed. It is unfortunate that this therapist was not able to get the time off to come to the annual meeting and scientific symposium this year, and highlights a perennial problem that the CPHC faces. Since clinic therapists have small EFT's in hemophilia care (some are still officially at a 0 EFT and use unfunded time to treat hemophilia patients), it is difficult to successfully secure the agreement of administrators to approve educational leaves to attend meetings such as the one this weekend in Ottawa. Our greatest challenges come for those operating under program management who in most cases are dealing with a manager with no experience or knowledge about hemophilia, as well as a completely different professional background with less understanding about the role of Physiotherapy even in a more general sense. I would like to propose a collaborative approach between the executives of the CPHC, AHCDC, CANHC, CSWHC, and the CHS to impress upon administrators at facilities where comprehensive care clinics are located, that provision of educational allowances and leaves for all staff treating hemophilia is essential.

I am pleased that for the first time in at least the last 10 years we will be joined this weekend by a therapist from the largest adult clinic in the country (St. Michaels Hospital – Toronto) at our meeting. I have also had initial contact with the adult clinic in Halifax that looks hopeful for developing a team of Physiotherapists to work with their patients on a regular basis. Slowly we are making headway in closing all of the staffing gaps around the country but it is an ongoing effort.

Ongoing Projects

The CPHC continues to make client focused projects a priority, and greatly appreciates the support of Pharmaceutical industry partners as well as the CHS in our ongoing efforts in this regard. Listed here are the current projects either under development or recently completed.

1. Clinical Mentorship Program (Funding by Bayer)
 - a. Designed as a means of educating therapists new to hemophilia care in a clinical setting. Each mentorship will consist of a three to four day clinical visit to an established centre of excellence.
 - b. The three training sites are Winnipeg, Toronto (Sick Kids), and Montreal (St. Justine). As such, we will have the capability to do both adult and pediatric caseload mentorships, as well as offering training in both English and French.
 - c. Mentorships this year are being offered to therapists from Newfoundland and Calgary

2. CD-ROM Learning Tool (Funding by Baxter)
 - a. An interactive case study based educational tool unique in the Physiotherapy care of hemophilia.
 - b. The subcommittee met in Winnipeg in December '07 to develop the case studies and follow up questions that form the basis of the tool. Two adult and two pediatric cases were developed, as well as clinical tips, and multiple choice questions leading the user through the acute management and long term care of joint and muscle bleeds.
 - c. The CPHC worked with a company called Kaleidoscope in Toronto to produce the CD-ROM.
 - d. The CD-ROM was rolled out to the Canadian clinics in February of this year, and is available for clinic therapists to loan out to other staff members as well as community based Physiotherapists to broaden the base of basic hemophilia musculoskeletal care knowledge.
 - e. The CD-ROM was presented to the international musculoskeletal community at the very recently held WFH Musculoskeletal Congress in Cartagena, Colombia.

3. Currently the CPHC is working towards partnering with NovoNordisk to develop a resource for Physiotherapy treatment of people with inhibitors.

International Activities

Several of our members have developed or maintained their involvement in Hemophilia projects on the global stage.

Pam Hilliard and Nick Zourikian have maintained their involvement with the International Prophylaxis Study Group (IPSG).

WFH Physiotherapy projects and workshops have been completed at various international locations by Greig Blamey, Kathy Mulder, Nick Zourikian, and Pam Hilliard.

The 2009 WFH Musculoskeletal Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, was attended by Greig Blamey, Kathy Mulder, Nick Zourikian, Sandra Squire, and Nicole Graham. Platform presentations and free paper presentations were delivered by Greig, Kathy, and Nick, and all three were involved with Chairing sessions of the proceedings.

Research Projects

As already noted, two CPHC members are involved with the IPSEG. In addition, JoAnn Nilson is continuing to head the CPHC's project on mild hemophilia entitled "Creating meaningful messages for people with mild hemophilia". This project is funded by a Care until Cure grant.

As always, I am happy to hear from colleagues in hemophilia care and would welcome any comments or questions that you may have. I can be reached via email at : gblamey@hsc.mb.ca

Respectfully submitted,

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