ESTABLISHING A WIRELESS HOSPITAL WARD

M-ward PROJECT LAUNCH

At the Launch of an innovative mWard research project at Monash Medical Centre on Friday 30th May 2003, Monash University’s Centre for Health Services Operations Management (CHSOM) in conjunction with partners NEC and Southern Health, signed an agreement to undertake an information communications technology (ICT) project called “mWard”.

Dr Liza Heslop, Director of CHSOM explains, “the mWard project will explore how wireless technologies, such as a cordless phone or personal digital assistant (PDA), could be utilized in a hospital ward setting to improve clinical decision making systems.”

Signign the Agreement left to right: Professor Michael Berndt, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health sciences, Monash University; Dr Andrew Howard, National Manager, NEC (Community and Health); Dr Andrew Robb, Chief Information Officer, Southern Health.

Clinical decision making processes to manage patients are labour intensive. This is because the information needs on the ward must be sought from many experts such as physicians, health information managers, and clinical support staff including nurses, care managers, resident doctors, other care givers and diagnostic and treatment departments such as X-ray and pathology.

Estimates suggest that nurses and doctors spend more than one third of their time doing support work in the form of recording and synthesising information. This time consuming gathering of information contributes to delays in patient care processes and in turn, delays contribute to higher hospital costs due to additional bed days.

The introduction of electronic information systems will increase the speed and accuracy of clinical information flow and deliver detectable improvements in health outcomes.

Mr Keith Kranz, Manager IT2 Implementation, Department of Human Services, said “The new technology would provide significant benefits for Victoria’s hospital patients,” he said. “Not only will this new technology benefit patients but it will also help hospital staff, with the differing needs of doctors and nurses also being met with increased efficiency in making important decisions relating to patient care”.

Enquiries about the project: Dr Liza Heslop, Centre for Health Services Operations Management, Monash University, 9904 4639 or 9904 4066 or 0407 886701

The aim of the Memorial fund is to financially assist the provision of Palliative Care Nursing in matters associated with the encouragement and promotion of research in learning, and teaching within Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Peninsula Hospitals Service (PHS), Peninsula Health (PH) and the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS).

PROPOSED RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The following represents some general research projects, intended to initiate the research process for partner bodies, funding bodies and individual staff. These priorities are in keeping with the research directions of Palliative Care Australia Scoping Study (1999) and with work undertaken by staff of the partner bodies in 2002.

Service Delivery And Policy
- Demonstrating the “triangle of care”
- Palliative care and aged care connections
- Describing Palliative care consultant roles
- What happens in the dark
- A retrospective analysis of the development of palliative care policy in Australia over the last 30 years

Clinical Issues
- Accident and emergency admissions of people receiving palliative care at home
- Measuring life expectancy for people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND)
- Silent support – women’s caring roles
- Studies of palliative care nursing management – clinical, ethical and professional issues
- Oral history of Vivian Bullwinkel
- A historical study of the development of palliative care services in Australia

Here is my tax-deductible gift of

$100
$500
$1,000
Other

Please make cheques payable to The Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund, Monash University

Or charge my

Visa
Bankcard
MasterCard

Name as it appears on card

Card no

Signature

Expire date

Credit card gifts can be faxed to confidential fax: +61 3 99052944

Please fill in your details below:

Name

Address

ph: home and work

email:

I would like to make a bequest in my will to support The Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund

I would like more information about the Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund

Please contact Janine Barrett on +61 3 9905 5971 if you have any queries or email: janine.barrett@med.monash.edu.au

Privacy note: The information collected here is for the purposes of processing your gift and to enable us to keep you informed about the Memorial Fund and associated activities. Please contact us if you wish to access or update your personal details.

Vivian Bullwinkel exemplified what nurses do best - care for others. It is fitting that this remarkable woman, one of Australia’s war heroines, should be honoured with the establishment of a palliative care nursing chair in her name to further the work of a profession she loved. It will help raise the standard of palliative care and allow other dedicated men and women to walk in Vivian’s footsteps while furthering her philosophy of caring for the human body as well as the human spirit.”

Patron: Ita Buttrose AO, DBE