**NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Service Network**

**Position Statement - May, 2013**

***Recommendations for Outcome Data Collection and Introduction of Benchmarking for NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services***

Stroke rehabilitation ambulatory care services deliver multi-disciplinary rehabilitation to people with stroke in their homes or in the community. In 2012, with support from ACI Stroke Network, staff representing stroke outreach services across NSW formed a network formally known as NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services (SRACS).

The network comprises of representatives from the following Local Health Districts(LHD):

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| * Central Coast
 | * Illawarra Shoalhaven
 | * Northern Sydney
 |
| * Sydney
 | * Western Sydney
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A key objective of the NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services was to develop agreement on outcome measures across services, thus enabling benchmarking across the state. The NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services network believes this work to be integral to the development of stroke rehabilitation services as it will:

* provide a framework for evaluation of outreach stroke services across NSW
* allow services to monitor the comparative effectiveness of their models of care against other models
* identify practice variation and support opportunities for continuous quality improvement
* provide assurance for funding bodies acknowledging the relevance and effectiveness of stroke outreach services

After reviewing outcome measures suitable for the stroke population, the NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services network recommended that services (new and existing) collect the following outcome measures (table 1).

**Table 1: Recommended outcome measures for stroke outreach services**

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| **DOMAIN** | **OUTCOME MEASURE** | **CURENT COLLECTION & REPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE** |
| Death & Dependency  | Modified Rankin Scale | Nil |
| Quality of Life | Life satisfaction questionnaire Lisat 11 | Nil |
| Carer Strain | Modified Carer Stress Index | Nil |
| Goal  | Goal Attainment Scale (GAS Light)  | Nil |
| Activities of Daily Living | Australian Modified Lawton’s Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale | Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) |
| Demographics / Episode | AROC demographic and episode data  |

A key step in this work was consultation with the Australian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) to determine if they could assist with the benchmarking aims of the group. AROC recommended the use of the Australian Modified Lawton’s Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale, and are currently collecting data from multiple services facilitating benchmarking of this outcome measure across Australia. The NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services network has recommended that stroke ambulatory services across NSW adopt the use of the IADL Scale and participate in the AROC Ambulatory Care (Version 1) program. Services are now in the process of joining this program however, this will only enable collection of service episode data and 1 of the 4 recommended stroke rehabilitation ambulatory care outcome measures.

Therefore, the NSW Stroke Rehabilitation Ambulatory Care Services network is seeking support from Stroke Services NSW and the NSW Agency of Clinical Innovation (ACI) to assist with identification and development of a collection and reporting infrastructure to enable services to undertake benchmarking for the 3 remaining outcome measures (Quality of life / Goal attainment / Carer Strain). The network requests that recommendations from this position statement, and the need for further infrastructure to progress this work is discussed with representatives from the NSW Ministry of Health.

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| **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NSW STROKE OUTREACH SERVICES NETWORK** |
| A Newton | Physiotherapy  | Shoalhaven ISLHD |
| L Barbour | Social Work | Central; Coast LHD |
| A Lance | Physiotherapy | Blacktown/Mt Druitt WSLHD |
| L Downes | Occupational Therapy | RPAH SLHD |
| S James | Occupational Therapy | Woy Woy Central Coast LHD  |
| C. Hurst | Speech Pathology | Woy Woy Central Coast LHD |
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| L.Curtis | Physiotherapy  | Woy Woy Central Coast LHD |
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**Document Revision History**

Tuesday 10th June, 2014 – Quality of Life Scale amended to LISAT 11.