

Medication Administration to Aged Care patients with Dysphagia

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behalf of the Movicol and
Dysphagia Working Party
Concord Hospital

2012



Health
Sydney
Local Health District



Background

- Case study – Mr JW.



Movicol



Is used to relieve constipation



Is often used to treat constipation in elderly patients as movicol has few side effects compared with other laxatives



Is dosed 1 sachet must be mixed in 125ml of water to have intended effect

Dysphagia in the Elderly

Prevalence in acute hospitals is **33.3%** (Steele et al., 1997)

80% have dysphagia in acute stage of stroke
(Logemann, 1998)

70 – 90% of older people have some degree of
swallow dysfunction (Kelly et al., 2010)

Medication administration

- Paucity of data in this area
- Research has largely focused on mental health or residential aged care settings
- Medication administration errors in patients with dysphagia are twice as frequent compared with those patients without dysphagia (Kelly 2009)
- Lack of knowledge in area
- No clear pathways or systems (Kelly 2010)

Exploration of current practice

- No guideline outlining how to administer movicol to patients with dysphagia on thickened fluids
- Inconsistencies in practice across the hospital and area

Method

- Survey
- Workshopped practical methods to modify movicol
- Development of policy; approved by nursing committee and uploaded onto intranet
- Education package to aged care NS
- MAR order
- 3 month trial of policy
- Review compliance and effectiveness

Method

Survey

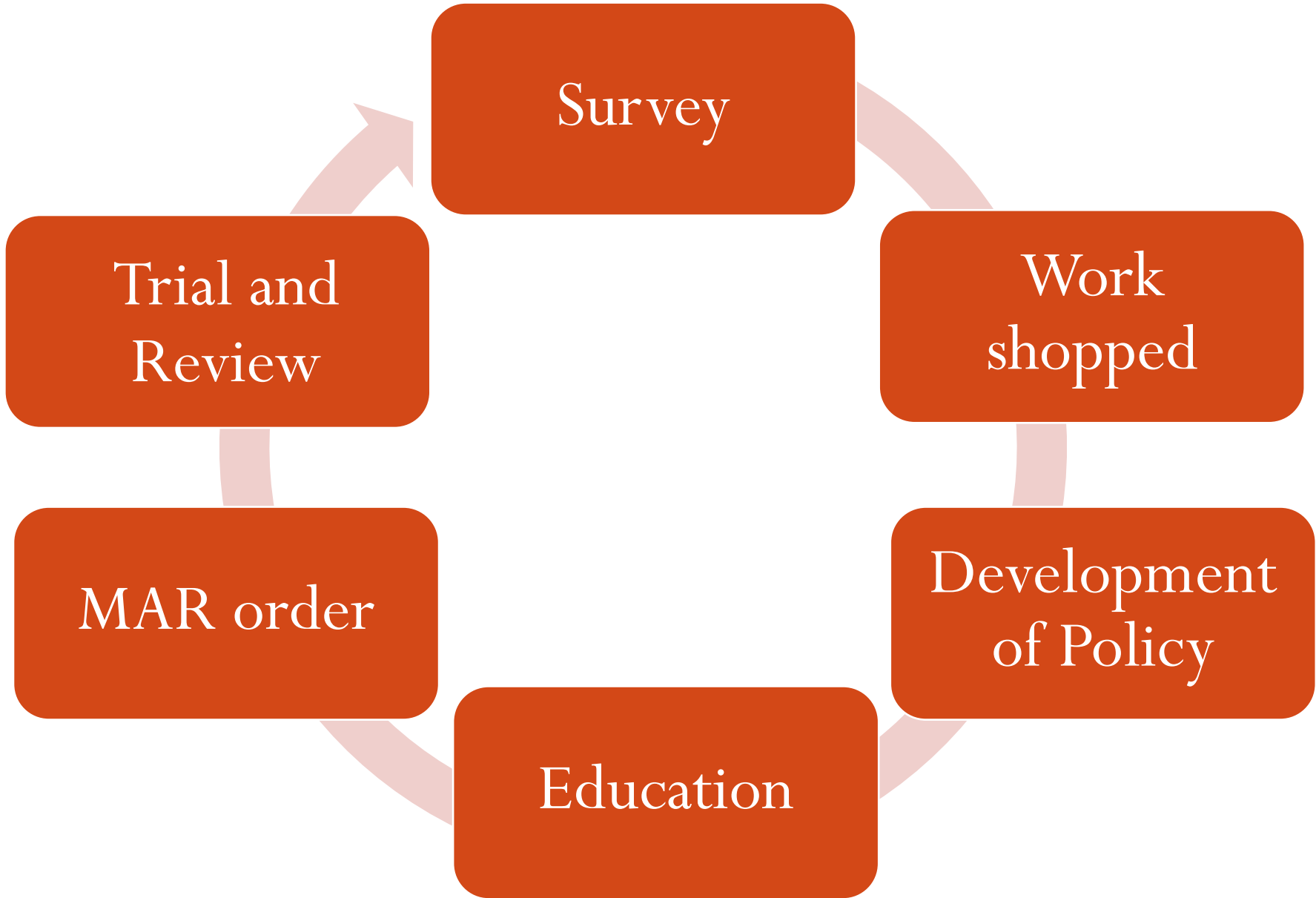
Trial and
Review

Work
shopped

MAR order

Development
of Policy

Education



Preliminary results

3 month trial



Good compliance
Increased knowledge
and confidence

Future directions




- Evaluation of effectiveness of policy



- Better understanding of contributing factors leading to adverse events



- Improve communication processes



- Raising awareness

Questions



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References

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