



NEWS FROM THE EASY-Care PROGRAMME

Get a leading edge on meeting challenges with the Transformation Agenda



Congratulations!

The pilot study of systematic anticipatory care using EASY-Care instruments, led by Dr Eithne Cummings of the Sheffield Hallam & South GP Consortium which was described in our last newsletter, has won a prize for best improvement project for reducing inequalities in healthcare, in a competition across all health conditions and age groups.

We congratulate Eithne and her colleagues on their success and look forward to reporting the results of the project.

In the last newsletter we reported on our new projects on promoting **personalisation** & on **systematic anticipatory care** for older people.

In part, these projects will help to identify requirements for developing information systems to:-

1. Identify at-risk older people using routine information systems & EASY-Care instruments.
2. Improve assessment goal & self-directed care setting.
3. Inform resource allocation systems.
4. Produce case-mix data for caseload management & bench marking.
5. Develop carer assessment systems & reporting functions in these areas.

Academics at SISA (University of Sheffield) & PSSRU (University of Manchester) are collaborating on the evaluation of this work.

All registered PCTs & Councils have been invited to participate in this project, so that requirements for developing their information systems can be identified.

Our approved I.T. suppliers, Liquidlogic & FileVision, are both interested in working closely with these organisations to develop their software to meet these needs.

Our initial assessment of information requirements will be conducted from May to July 2009.

Software development will take place from July to September.

Early findings will be reported in October.

There will be an on-going programme of evaluation of impact on outcomes for service users and cost-effectiveness for services.

Please contact us if you would like to register, so that you can participate in this project.

A VOICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE;

"What older people actually need!

A joined-up single assessment system which takes account of carers' needs too.
A lot of older people need someone with them during assessments, so that they don't hide their problems."

Jane Tanser, Sheffield 50+ Group

Article Feature

[Reliability of needs assessments in the community care of older people: impact of the single assessment process in England](#)

ABSTRACT; Impact of the SAP policy in terms of the reliability of needs identification within statutory social services assessments.

An observational study compared the accuracy of needs identification in samples of older people before and after SAP introduction.

It was found that statutory social services assessments better captured need following the introduction of SAP.

However, the extent to which these finding can be attributed to SAP introduction is limited by the introduction of multiple policy initiatives throughout the study period.

One of the authors, Professor David Challis of Manchester PSSRU, says;

"Work on standardising assessments clearly seemed to improve detection of needs. However, we still need to improve identification of depression in older people which affects so many people in the community and in care homes."

A copy of this article is available from <http://pubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/>

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FAREWELL ...

At the beginning of April we said goodbye to Georgina Coggins, previously the EASY-Care Research Secretary, who has relocated to the South of England. We would like to thank Georgina for all of her hard work & wish her well.



Georgina's last day in the office, with Ian Philp.

WELCOME ...

We are pleased to formally Welcome Judith Long, our new International R&D Secretary, who joined us in May.

A message from Judith;

Hello all, I am extremely pleased to have joined the EASY-Care team. I have recently moved to Sheffield from Doncaster & am currently finishing my part time studies for an MA in Archaeology at the University of Sheffield. As R&D Secretary I provide support for International members of the network & am currently preparing materials for the EASY-Care symposium at the IAGG conference in Paris this July. I look forward to being involved in the EASY-Care Programme.



Judith's first day in the office, with Tracey Binks

Training in Good Assessment Practice

If you want information about our training programmes or want to discuss the needs of your organisation you can contact our consultant Frances Fairclough at franceseasyicare@btinternet.com

We continue to offer training programmes to support organisations as they implement or continue to use the EASY-Care assessment tools. The outcome of a recent project that the University of Sheffield undertook with European partners (funded by a Leonardo da Vinci grant) was a training programme designed for practitioners, their managers and trainers on "Good Practice in Assessment". There is a workbook that accompanies this course containing case studies and information for participants, and where the programme is delivered to trainers, a Trainer's Manual is available. These learning materials can be used flexibly to respond to local priorities in health and social care organisations.

The most recent training sessions have been delivered to Community Nurses whose organisations are planning to extend the scope

and use of the EASY-Care Standard assessment and Supporting Instruments.

A staff development session was considered an essential part of the preparation for the Community Nursing teams who are involved with the Systematic Anticipatory Care project. The nurses will be completing an holistic assessment of a targeted group of "at risk" older people at home. This will be followed by a GP consultation where appropriate. The nurses involved were not familiar with the EASY-Care assessment instruments and the training allowed time for them to use the EASY-Care Standard assessment with case studies and to consider which elements of the Supporting Instruments would be suitable for their proactive assessments in the pilot stage of the project. The evaluation of the session indicated that the participants valued this part of the training.

In a PCT where the Community Matrons with responsibility for people with long term conditions have been using the EASY-Care assessment instruments for some time, the Community Nursing teams are also planning to start to use the same assessment tools. Both groups of staff joined together for to reflect on their assessment practice and look at EASY-Care 2008 and to discuss the best ways of using it. The Community Matrons who were seeing the latest version of EASY-Care for the first time were positive about some of the changes that had been made.

There are further training sessions planned with a local authority's social workers when the Good Practice in Assessment workbook will be used to allow staff to reflect on their practice and to discuss with colleagues how to improve outcomes for the people they assess.

If there are any articles you would like to share with members of the EASY-Care network, please send them to t.binks@sheffield.ac.uk. Thanks.