Special Interest Groups

Acute Care

The SIG started the year going strong. Our SIG networking session at the 2008 National Symposium in Philadelphia titled CQI in the Acute Care Setting was led by Billie Axley. The 225 session participants were given the opportunity to participate in developing their own CQI project. Participants were divided into groups of five, and the energy devoted to the process was exciting. Several quality themes were presented: Upgrading Staffing, Improving Communication, Overcoming Clinical Challenges, Reviving Education, and Strengthening the Team. The results will be published in the Nephrology Nursing Journal in the next few months.

We are in the process of completing our strategic plan for the upcoming year. We plan to write three articles for the Nephrology Nursing Journal. The SIG will continue to offer acute care educational offerings. The SIG also wants to strengthen the Acute Care Forum on ANNA’s Web site by increasing dialogue among acute care nephrology nurses. Our long-term goal is to build a foundation of clinical practice standardization and quality so that Acute Care Best Practice Guidelines can be developed. We want to design an acute care research project to address acute care clinical practice issues.

The SIG members who have agreed to serve this year are: Judy Kauffman, Brenda Kerr, Mary Rose Kott, Gary Reschak, Caroline Steward, and Helen Williams. I am looking to recruit two more SIG members, one member from the North Central Region and one member from the Southeast Region. If interested, please contact me.

I would like to thank Billie Axley, Maureen Craig, and Kitty Thomas who served on the SIG last year for their hard work and commitment to acute care. We will miss them!

As always, we welcome and encourage any suggestions from ANNA members on how to meet the needs of acute care nurses. You are welcome to contact the SIG through the ANNA Web site at www.annanurse.org or e-mail me directly at fallons@mail.amc.edu.

Sue Fallone
Acute Care SIG Leader
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120

Peritoneal Dialysis

Evelyn Crumb will serve as SIG leader for the 2008-2009 year. She has been a nephrology nurse since 1990 and was the peritoneal dialysis (PD) trainer at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, TX. The committee members reflect experience and expertise in nephrology: April Peters of Long Island, NY, who is currently preparing a PD case study for publication in the Nephrology Nursing Journal; Audrey Goyette, Western Region member, who has grown her PD census from 13 to 25-26 over the past 8 years. Jeannine Farina, Baxter Peritoneal Dialysis; Linda Bethea, just opening a PD program; Rosemary Motichek of Southeast Louisiana, DaVita PD; Sara Kennedy, also with DaVita but in Alabama; Sherri Fulmer and Sylvia Moe of Rochester, MN; Terry Bellon of the Fleur de Lis Chapter in Southeast Louisiana with 13 years experience; and Trudy Saldana with 11 years PD experience.

SIG members will respond to PD questions placed on the Forum on ANNA’s Web site. Two primary goals for 2008-2009 will be to complete PD on Wheels, a learning module for the ANNA Web site, and to plan sessions for the 2009 National Symposium. Suggestions or requests are invited.

Evelyn Crumb
Peritoneal Dialysis SIG Leader
Gulf Coast Chapter #204

Transplant

The year has started very busily for the group. Thanks to Roberta Billman for her service as SIG leader for the last 2 years. We are delighted she is remaining as a committee member.

Clara Neyhart is busily writing. Her first project is a summary of the presentation and discussion at the SIG’s session at the 2008 National Symposium. Be sure to look for it in a future issue of the Nephrology Nursing Journal. She will continue to showcase her writing skills with an article designed to assist dialysis nursing staff to knowledgeably answer patient questions about the option of transplantation.

Pat Weiskittel will be the lead author of the transplant chapter in the soon to be revised ANNA CQI Manual. With the assistance of suggestions from the group she will discuss “CQI in a Solid Organ Transplant Program.”

The SIG will monitor the Forum on the ANNA Web site, and at least one member will respond to any queries posted there. We look forward to the possibility of animated discussion.

Sharon Swofford
Transplant SIG Leader
Colonial Chapter #103
Greetings from the Hemodialysis Special Interest Group. The group has been hard at work in recent months on several projects in addition to preparing for the 2008 National Symposium. During the symposium the SIG provided three networking sessions for attendees to learn, discuss, and collaborate on clinical topics. A session entitled “Access” proved to be a creative and fun, yet informative, opportunity for participants to focus on issues about vascular access. Donna Carlton-Casey and Judy Kauffman were this session’s facilitators. Another session entitled Short Daily vs. Nocturnal Home Hemodialysis was facilitated by Kay Deck. This discussion gave attendees an opportunity to compare and contrast the two distinct methods of hemodialysis therapy. Finally, Kathryn McDougall and Melissa Foster provided an extensive and relevant presentation on diabetes care that demonstrated startling yet encouraging statistics. The session entitled Don’t Let Diabetes Management Stop Once Dialysis Starts: Guidelines for Patient Care was a rigorous forum for debate.

The SIG is developing a strategic plan that surrounds the core values of ANNA: Advocacy, Scholarship and Excellence. Through advocacy the SIG is interested in developing a “renal friendly foods” plan to encourage retail grocery centers to have a dedicated renal foods section to assist patients with CKD. The SIG would like to extend an invitation to members interested in contributing to this project to register with the ANNA Resource Corps via the ANNA Web site (www.annanurse.org).

SIG members have contributed to various ANNA publications in recent months. Helene Christner and Monica Riley authored an article entitled “Should Patients Eat During Hemodialysis Treatments,” offering both pros and cons on this challenging topic. Four SIG members contributed to the fourth edition of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide. The section contributors were Judy Kauffman, Melissa Foster, Caroline Steward, and Gayle Hall.

The group’s monthly meeting focuses on issues of timely and relevant importance to all facets of hemodialysis practice and patient care. We encourage members to utilize the Forum on the ANNA Web site to contact the SIG for any clinical issues, comments, or concerns related to hemodialysis practice.

The 2008-2009 year brings three new members to the SIG, all from the ANNA Resource Corps. The current group welcomes Edie Peterson, Joan Reid, and Beth St. John and looks forward to their future contributions. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to Judy Kauffman for her contributions, commitment, and leadership during her role as SIG leader. Thanks, Judy!

Melissa Foster
Hemodialysis SIG Leader
Music City Chapter #228

Chronic Kidney Disease

The past year under the leadership of Gladys Benavente has been extremely successful for the SIG; it was a year in which we accomplished many of our goals. As I begin my new role as SIG leader, I have to reflect on the wonderful opportunity it has been to work with such a motivated group of nurses. Although some will not be continuing with us this year, I know we will accomplish many goals with the current SIG members: Donna Calvin, Carol Kinzner, David Simmons, and new members Linda Bethea and Stacy Feathers. Our first meeting was full of stimulating dialogue regarding new goals and expectations for the coming year. The SIG will continue to develop goals that are in alignment with ANNA’s Strategic Plan: Membership, Scholarship and Advocacy.

Membership. We will support nephrology nursing through active recruitment. Most recently Debbie Hain has agreed to mentor a new family nurse practitioner, who will be joining a local nephrology practice. With no prior nephrology experience, she was encouraged to join ANNA and to contact members of the Advanced Practice SIG for additional support. The SIG will work in collaboration with other SIGs because chronic kidney disease (CKD) crosses many boundaries.

Advocacy. One of our goals is to establish strategies for health promotion with people at risk for or who have CKD and to develop innovative methods of providing health care and education for this population. Donna Calvin, a PhD candidate, defended her dissertation in June. Her research involved exploration of the perceptions of CKD risk among African Americans. Her research findings, which she will publish at a later date, stimulated SIG members’ conversation about the importance of effective communication between health care providers and people with CKD. SIG members will review the available evidence about this topic and determine if an evidence-based project is feasible.

Scholarship. The SIG had an invigorating session at the 2008 National Symposium. A case study approach using a health promotion model encouraged dialogue about possible health promotion strategies for individuals at various stages of CKD. About 70 nephrology nurses attended, all in various areas of practice and at different education levels. Audience responses promoted the decision to make health promotion our primary goal for the 2008-2009 year. An additional goal is to disseminate CKD information through community outreach, professional presentations, and publication in peer-reviewed journals.

As I begin my term as SIG leader, I want to thank Gladys Benavente and Sally Campoy for laying a strong foundation for us to build upon. As the SIG moves forward this year, we will continue to embrace the opportunity to improve the quality of life for the people we serve and to support nephrology nursing.

Debra Hain
Chronic Kidney Disease SIG Leader
South Florida Flamingo Chapter #206
Challenge of Access Reimbursement

One of the SIG's ongoing projects is to improve access to reimbursement for dialysis services. This is critical as patient access to quality dialysis care directly impacts their health outcomes. The SIG is working closely with legislators and policymakers to advocate for better reimbursement rates for dialysis facilities. With the help of resources on the ANNA Web site, SIG members are equipped to make informed decisions and present compelling arguments in support of increased reimbursement. The SIG encourages ANNA members to explore the resources on the ANNA Web site and use them to advocate for better access to dialysis services for their patients.

Pediatric Nephrology

The SIG presented a session at the National Symposium on Dialyzing Children in an Adult Unit. The session was attended by numerous nephrologists and renal nurses, highlighting the growing importance of this topic. The SIG has focused on the unique needs of pediatric patients in the adult nephrology setting and is guiding the development of sessions to address these needs effectively. The SIG's resources have been widely downloaded, indicating their value to the nephrology community.

Advanced Practice

This year's SIG members include returning members Lois Bartels, Annette Hood, Brenda Patrick, and Dana Zeiss. New members are Amy Allspaw, Betty Etherton, Betty Ann (Elizabeth) Hughson, Carol Kinzner, and Kristin Larson. Goals for the upcoming year include development of job description guidelines for Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) working in nephrology. The SIG has developed guidelines for Nurse Practitioner (NP) APRNs, which were posted on the ANNA Web site in April. The guidelines cover areas such as job qualifications, educational preparation, professionalism, and responsibilities in the various settings in which APRNs practice (outpatient, hospital, clinic, research). The document is available for download on the ANNA Web site. Go to www.annanurse.org, click on Practice, and select Committees and SIGs to access the guidelines.

The SIG is also working on an article for survey readiness in the unannounced visits related to the new ESRD regulations. A big thank you to all the committee members for their continued dedication and for holding successful sessions. Any suggestions from ANNA members concerning the Administration SIG are welcome. Please contact us through the ANNA Web site or e-mail us at perrecm@mail.amc.edu.

Mary Perrecone
Administration SIG Leader
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120

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