Here we are with 2009 almost over, (and Christmas galloping up on us) … I can’t believe yet another year has already gone by!!  Given this is our last edition for the year I thought I’d take the opportunity to briefly review some highlights for AROC during the year:

♦ Most important was the arrival of Tara’s second son Ashton, and Janet’s baby girl Southerly Rose.

♦ Saw Janet off on maternity leave (just a few days before Southerly Rose made a slightly early appearance) and welcomed Nicole Rankin as a new AROC recruit.

♦ Published the fourth State of the Rehabilitation Nation Report with 2008 data – now available on our website … see link below.

♦ Welcomed on board all Qld public rehabilitation units, after Qld Health finalised building the AROC inpatient dataset into their state based patient management system.

♦ Supported the Victorian Dept Health in their project to roll out FIM as the outcome measure of choice for all rehabilitation and GEM episodes in Victoria. Negotiated the inclusion of the AROC inpatient and ambulatory datasets into the Victorian designated Minimum Data Sets collected by all Vic public facilities.

♦ Held the Reconditioning benchmarking workshop in July. Undertook all the pre workshop analysis, post workshop follow up, consultation process, finalisation and then publication of the agreed outcome targets, and an associated adjunct dataset.

♦ Presented the inaugural New Zealand data at the AFRM Annual Conference in (appropriately) Queenstown New Zealand in July.

♦ Received funding from the Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care as a pilot site for the evaluation of their draft operating Principles and Technical Standards for Australian Clinical Quality Registries. This allowed AROC to resource the development of our Data Dictionary (now available online), and undertake a facility based Data Audit and provide on the ground training to some 30 member facilities.

♦ Appointed a developer who has commenced building a new IT System for AROC. When implemented this system will have some member friendly features such as a web based data entry front end (that will largely replace SNAPshot), and an ability for facilities to access their own data and a number of standard benchmark reports.

♦ Present AROC related papers at a number of conferences, and gave numerous other presentations to parties interested or involved with AROC.

♦ Finalised the development of the AROC Data Access Application Form, allowing AROC to put some process around the frequent requests we get for access to data and/or data analysis from the AROC database.

♦ AROC Master Trainers conducted 68 FIM/WeeFIM Workshops in Australia and New Zealand. More than 3000 people sat and passed the FIM credentialing exam.

♦ Published four issues of DataMatters

AROC will close for 2009 on Thursday 24 December and will reopen on Monday 11 January 2010. We hope you all have time to enjoy the festive season and look forward to working with you again in the new year. Thanks for all your efforts in 2009, we really appreciate all you do to help us make the AROC data collection and benchmarking the success that it is. Merry Christmas and have a peaceful and safe festive season.
**Benchmarking News**

*Upcoming Benchmarking Workshop - Amputee*

Our next clinical benchmarking workshop is in the area of amputee rehabilitation. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a set of draft targets for outcomes of rehabilitation treatment following amputation and review amputee data for 2008-2009.

The one day workshop will be held on **Friday, 5 March 2010**, with the venue to be confirmed early in the New Year.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Nicole Rankin, Research Fellow at AROC on 02 4221 4766 or email: **aroc@uow.edu.au**

**Adjunct Data Modules**


The adjunct data modules are designed to capture items specific to the draft outcome targets developed during the workshops (with the exception of SCI) and be used to inform current clinical practice. It is hoped that these quality targets can contribute to the improvement of clinical outcomes for rehabilitation in these impairment groups.

The additional reconditioning data is also designed to assist in understanding of how to better categorise the reconditioning cohort. There have been a number of queries around some of the additional items, in particular the definition of ‘medically stable’. Whilst it is yet to be formalised, the definition put forward by some during workshop was around the requirement for ‘medical intervention (physician related, not rehab related) to stabilise the patient prior to them being able to begin active participation in therapy.’ We know that rehab patients still require medical supervision and (sometimes) intervention, but usually this does not interfere with their ability to participate in active rehab.

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**Data Submission — Your 2009 data is due in January 2010**

The table below indicates the data collection periods and data submission timelines associated with the AROC inpatient dataset and the AROC Ambulatory dataset. Please note that we are fast approaching another data submission deadline ... Inpatient discharges up to the end December are due to be submitted to AROC via AROC Online Services (AOS) by the end of January 2010.

Please make sure your facility submits their data on time.

Data collection periods and their submission months for 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episodes ending</th>
<th>Submission month</th>
<th>Inpatient dataset</th>
<th>Ambulatory dataset</th>
<th>Adjunct Data Modules</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>end of January 2010**</td>
<td>Version 3</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
<td>SCI, BI, Reconditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>end of April 2010</td>
<td>Version 3</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
<td>SCI, BI, Reconditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>end of July 2010**</td>
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<td>Version 1</td>
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<td>September 2010</td>
<td>end of October 2010</td>
<td>Version 3</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
<td>SCI, BI, Reconditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td>end of January 2011**</td>
<td>Version 3</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
<td>SCI, BI, Reconditioning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** AROC reports to be generated for your facility based on this data - please resubmit after corrections
Welcome to our newest member Hawkes Bay DHB - Hastings Hospital, bringing NZ AROC member numbers to well over 20.

We had our first NZ member Networking Forum teleconference on Oct 28, with 15 rehabilitation services attending. It proved to be a helpful exercise as it gave us (the AROC team) a chance to discuss developments in NZ, and gave NZ members a chance to ask questions and clarify.

The big points of discussion were clarification of some data items and data submission error reports, which I have summarised below.

This is a national rehabilitation clinical registry, used to benchmark nationally so all rehabilitation patients treated in each service should have AROC data collected and submitted (not just, for example, ACC clients)

- Co-morbidities and complications are ONLY recorded for a patient when the co-morbidity or complication INTERFERES with that rehabilitation episode.
- Mode of episode end, accommodation post discharge, and level of support all work together as data items.
  - If the patient is being discharged to accommodation that is different to where they lived, but it will become their usual accommodation post discharge, use the “discharged to usual accommodation” option for mode of episode end.
  - Only code ‘accommodation post discharge’ when the answer to ‘mode of accommodation end’ is ‘1’ or ‘2’.
- Record the funder for the majority of the patient’s episode. If there was another funder during the rehabilitation episode, you may choose to record this in the comment field at the end.
- Country of residence is collected NOT country of birth
- Indigenous status is different to ethnicity. Code-set is: A. Maori ; B. Non-Maori ; C. Not stated/inadequately described.
- Code a NZ’er with European background as B. Non-Maori.

When data is submitted you will receive an error report, which summarises any irregularities in the data. Errors are classified either RED or BLUE, red errors are critical errors that require correction to enable the data in that episode to be used.

Since the teleconference units who have submitted data and received an error report have been in touch and have taken the opportunity to look over reports together with AROC.

It has been suggested by the attendees that a quarterly meeting would be beneficial, and Feb 24 2010 at 1300NZST (1100AEST) has been set as the next meeting.

Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and commitment to getting things right during 2009. I’m looking forward to working with you in 2010.

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions (mberger@uow.edu.au).

Monique

Lawton’s—minor wording change

A slight wording change on Item 6 of the Lawton’s … just clarifying the explanation of item code 4.

New wording:
‘Can travel independently on public transportation or can drive own car or can arrange own travel via taxi.’
rather than the original …
‘Can travel independently on public transportation or can drive own car. Includes arranging own travel via taxi but not otherwise using public transport.’
The ambulatory benchmarking initiative continues to gain momentum with a number of new services opting to begin collecting the AROC Ambulatory Clinical Data Set.

A big thankyou to those sites that have been collecting this year and begun submitting their data, we are now in the process of developing the draft ambulatory benchmark report and look forward to releasing it for comment in the new year. Another big thank you to information systems teams that have worked to integrate the AROC ambulatory data items into their patient management systems, we greatly appreciate your efforts.

The new version of the SNAPshot software (3.83F) containing the additional ambulatory data set items is now available for download at http://chsd.uow.edu.au/aroc/snapshotupdate.html

AROC Online Services (AOS) has been modified to allow for upload of the ambulatory data, the system will go live prior to the data submission deadline for 2009. Ambulatory service providers wishing to submit their data using the AOS should download an application for login and password from the AROC website. Facilities collecting both inpatient and ambulatory data will need separate logins.

Data for inclusion in the inaugural AROC Ambulatory Calendar Year Benchmark Report will need to be submitted by 31 January 2010.

The AROC Ambulatory Clinical Data Set version 1 and its supporting documents can be viewed on the AROC website at http://chsd.edu.au/aroc. Any facility interested in further information, or wishing to take part in the AROC Ambulatory Benchmarking Initiative can contact Jodie via email at jodietm@uow.edu.au or on 02 4221 4687

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### Changes to Benchmark Reports

**Changes to AROC benchmark reports:**

Previously many of the length of stay (LOS) calculations in these reports excluded episodes with a LOS greater than 90 days. This filter has now been removed. From the 2009 financial year reports onwards episodes with a LOS greater than 90 days are now also included in all tables that summarise LOS.

Previously end of episode outcome measures such as LOS and FIM change only excluded episodes when there was a FIM discharge score of 18 or when the patient died. From the 2009 financial year reports onwards end of episode outcome measures will be based solely on episodes of rehabilitation that have been identified as “complete”.

**NEW: Definition of a complete episode**

An episode is considered “complete” for the purpose of calculating outcome statistics in benchmark reports if:

**(A)** the mode of episode end was either 1 (discharged to usual accommodation) or 2 (discharged to interim accommodation) AND total FIM score at episode end was greater than 18,

OR

**(B)** the mode of episode end was 7 (change of care type within sub-acute/non-acute care) AND length of stay greater than 6 days.
AROC FIM™ Workshops— Workshops for 2010

AROC Workshops
FIM Master trainers have been very busy this year with more than 68 workshops having taken place to date—in sites all over Australia and New Zealand with more scheduled to be completed before the end of the year. For further information about FIM workshops, please contact Julie on 02 4221 5282. AROC hosted workshops for the 2010 are shown in the table below. If you would like to register interest in attending a workshop some time in the future please let us know and we will add you to our list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>FIM/WeeFIM</th>
<th>Open Workshop</th>
<th>FIM Facility Trainers</th>
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</thead>
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<td>12 March 2010</td>
<td>29 March 2010</td>
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<td>14 May 2010</td>
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<td>27 August 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 November 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Friendly Reminder
- when you contact us (email, phone or fax) please, please, please:
  - Indicate which facility you are from
  - Spell out the name (you may know the acronym but we might not)
  - Tell us which state/town (ie. prefix your phone number with the area code)
  - Don’t assume your email gives us a hint … Ramsay health has facilities all over, and lots of Bronwyn’s work for Ramsay; there are many Mater Hospitals in Australia!!

… you will save us lots of time.
Sometimes we enjoy the challenges you set us, and sometimes its just hard work!!
Update on AROC and HCP Report Requirements

AROC has been meeting with the Commonwealth government department responsible for HCP and can confirm that FIM and AN-SNAP class are no longer required for same day patients (hooray!). The edit rules around this are being modified as you read and future submission should no longer come back to reporting missing data.

A summary of discussions includes:

♦ Confirmation AROC is not driving the inclusion of AROC data items in the HCP collection, that this is coming from the Department.
♦ Confirmation that FIM scores and AN-SNAP classes (which are derived from FIM scores) are only appropriate for overnight inpatients and should be conditional.
♦ Confirmation that the rules around FIM scores and AN-SNAP classes will be amended for data received from now on (by 1 Jan 2010) so facilities are not forced to collect FIM for same-day admissions.
♦ Confirmation that Lawton's IADL (Australian Modified) is the ambulatory equivalent to FIM and is only appropriate for same day inpatients BUT WILL NOT be added to the HCP collection for 10/11.
♦ Confirmation AROC will report back on take up of ambulatory collection (and Lawton's).
♦ To be aware that data items taken from the AROC inpatient data set and included in the HCP collection are only appropriate for collection by overnight inpatients.
♦ To be aware that data items taken from the AROC ambulatory data set and included in the HCP collection are only appropriate for collection by same-day inpatients.
♦ AROC suggests that current data items "multi-disciplinary rehabilitation plan date" and "discharge plan date" (both from the AROC inpatient data set) could be optional for same day inpatients but are mandatory for overnight inpatients.
♦ Confirmation that AROC will be consulted on any change to the AN-SNAP HCP record to ensure accuracy and appropriateness of collection.

AROC National Manager: Frances Simmonds
AROC Clinical Director: A/Professor J E (Ben) Marosszeky
AROC Data Manager: Tara Stevermuer
AROC FIM Training Manager & Admin Support: Julie de Clouet
AROC Research Fellows:
Monique Berger
Jodie Tazelaar Molinia
Janet Law
Nicole Rankin

Contact us at: aroc@uow.edu.au
Find us at: http://chsd.edu.au/aroc
STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!!

- The ‘State of the Nation 2008’ Report has been released and can be accessed via the direct link: http://chsd.uow.edu.au/Publications/2009_pubs/son_2008.pdf

- Data submission Deadlines and Adjunct data collections
  - If you will be on leave at the end of January can you please ensure there is someone that can submit your facility's AROC data on or before the due date (31 January 2010).
  - SNAPshot 3.83F download—an updated version of SNAPshot including recent changes to health funds, HCP reporting requirements and the ambulatory dataset items is available for download at http://chsd.uow.edu.au/aroc/snapshotupdate.html