Here we are with 2007 almost over, (and Christmas galloping up on us)! I can’t believe another year has already gone by!! The most important event happened late in the year, being the birth of Tara’s son in late November – see more details later in this newsletter. Given this is our last edition for the year I thought I’d take the opportunity to briefly review what AROC has achieved during 2007 – it certainly feels like we have been super busy:

- Published four issues of DataMatters
- Published two AROC Reports, the calendar year one containing time series analysis for the first time, the development of which was a substantive undertaking
- Developed a new report format, specifically for funders, which gives summary information by facility
- Invited to present at five conferences, and gave numerous other presentations to parties interested or involved with AROC
- Drafted the second State of the Rehabilitation Nation Report with 2006 data (for publication in AHR’s Feb 2008 edition)
- Finalised v3 of the AROC Inpatient Dataset and implemented it effective 1 July 2007.
- Revised the AROC Impairment Codes and implemented these as part of the v3 AROC inpatient dataset implementation
- Finalised v4 of the Rehabilitation Medicine Clinical Indicators and ensured that v3 of the AROC inpatient dataset included all data items necessary for the collection and calculation of these indicators.
- Provided v3 AROC inpatient dataset training at locations around Australia. More than 400 people attended this training to very positive feedback I am pleased to say
- Developed a draft implementation plan for v1 of the AROC Ambulatory Dataset. Implementation to take place during 2008
- Recruited Janet Law. She is a FIM Master Trainer, and has also been responsible for the re-launch of the AROC Benchmarking Workshops. Held a #NOF Workshop in October. Stroke Workshop to take place in Feb 2008
- Undertook a roadshow to New Zealand rehabilitation units, four units have joined AROC so far, with others very interested
- Finished and reported on a research project for DVA – Alternate Models of Rehabilitation Care – a pilot study
- Appointed a number of WeeFIM Master Trainers and established a WeeFIM training process. The inaugural AROC hosted WeeFIM training workshop will be held in early February.
- AROC Master Trainers conducted 32 FIM Workshops. More than 1600 people sat and passed the FIM credentialing exam.

And all this whilst also doing the normal day to day running of AROC!! Yep, I was right, we have been busy!!
AROC Workshops in 2008

AROC Hosted FIM Training Workshops for 2008 — Commencing Again in March 2008 (dates to be confirmed)

Queensland, New South Wales & Victoria

AROC Facility Trainers Workshop 2008 — mid year unless demand requires one earlier

Please register your interest in one of these workshops by contacting AROC. Please note that individuals who had registered interest in 2007 and who did not respond to an invitation to attend a workshop will need to re-register if they wish to be included in the 2008 register of interest. For more information contact Julie de Clouet: Ph: 02 4221 5282 or email fim@uow.edu.au

FIM Credentialing Audit

As we mentioned when we notified all members of the availability of the latest FIM Credentialing Report, AROC has the Australian territory license for the FIM. The ability to officially use the FIM under this license requires a user to be trained in its use by a current credentialed FIM Facility Trainer or FIM Master Trainer, AND to maintain a current credentialing status.

AROC will shortly be undertaking an audit of the credentialing status of FIM users to ensure we are meeting our obligations under this license.

AROC Out And About

AROC has been represented at a number of conferences over the last few months. The conferences and the titles of the papers are listed below. Copies of each of these presentations are accessible through the AROC website: http://chsd.uow.edu.au/aroc/

Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses Association 17th National Rehabilitation Conference, Brisbane, 11-12 October 2007
AROC presented a paper entitled “The State of Rehabilitation in Australia in 2006” at this conference.

Australian Private Hospitals Association 27th National Congress, Melbourne, 21-23 October 2007
AROC presented a paper entitled “AROC - the State of the Rehabilitation Nation 2006”. The AROC MAG Chair, Associate Professor Chris Poulos also presented a paper - “Is there a role for utilisation review in Australia?”

The Best of Both Worlds: Partnerships in Rehabilitation Conference (hosted by Epworth Rehabilitation and Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre), Melbourne, 14-16 November 2007
AROC presented a paper entitled “Benchmarking Outcomes in Rehabilitation: how to make AROC work for you !!”

Department of Veterans’ Affairs Research Seminar, 14 November, Canberra
AROC presented a summary of the DVA Research Project – Evaluation of Alternative Models of Rehabilitation Care for DVA Clients: a pilot study
Benchmarking Workshops

In April 2005, AROC hosted an inaugural benchmarking workshop analysing outcomes of treatment following fractured neck of femur (#NOF.) The major outcome was that additional analysis was required before the group could stipulate “benchmarks” or “targets” relating to #NOF.

For various reasons, mainly AROC resourcing, the Benchmarking Workshop process fell over. When AROC recruited Janet Law earlier this year, one of the objectives was the re-launch of the Benchmarking Workshops, and in late October a follow up #NOF Workshop was held. The original hospitals and a few extra facilities were invited, and a very productive day was had. The workshop has developed a set of draft ‘target’ outcomes relating to:

- Time From Surgery to Rehab Admission
- FIM Change
- ALOS
- Discharge Destination

An explanatory document which includes the draft targets will shortly be circulated to all providers of #NOF episodes for their input and feedback. The aim is to finalise and publish the targets by March 2008, and for AROC to utilise the targets in our 2007/08 Benchmarking Report.

The next impairment to be ‘workshopped’ will be Stroke, with a Benchmarking Workshop scheduled for February 2008.

Data collection periods and their submission months

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<th>Episodes ending up to</th>
<th>Submission month</th>
<th>Dataset Version</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 2007</td>
<td>end of January 2008**</td>
<td>Version 3</td>
</tr>
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<td>March 2008</td>
<td>end of April 2008</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2008</td>
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<td>Version 3</td>
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** AROC reports to be generated for your facility based on this data - please resubmit after corrections

New Addition to the AROC Family

On 28 November 2007, Tara gave birth to her son, Sebastian. Both mother and baby are doing very well. In fact it only took Tara, and her husband Bernie, 5 days to introduce young Sebastian to the joys of aeroplanes and flying, as the photo here shows. And please note the booties Sebastian is wearing in the other photo – they were a very thoughtful present from one of our contacts at an AROC member hospital (you know who you are) – Tara says thank you very much!!
AROC Dataset/ FIM Q&A’s

**Question Dressing Upper Body** - this question is on page 29 of the Facility Trainers Manual.

Sue wears a sweatshirt and bra. The helper threads both bra straps and hooks the bra. Sue then threads both sweatshirt sleeves, pulls the shirt over her head and over her trunk. Sue’s FIM level for Dressing Upper Body is……..

**Answer:**

Three, for the following reasons. Bra 3 steps (arm arm clip) and sweatshirt 4 steps (arm arm head pull down) = 7 in total. Sue does 4, helper does 3. Sue does 4 out of 7. Which is about 60%. If using the diagram/flow chart Sue does more than 50% and the help given by the helper is more than “incidental help” (answer would be no at the four/three decision box) and therefore a FIM of 3.

**Question Aspen Collars:**

During a facility training workshop the issue of Aspen collars for patients with spinal fractures etc was discussed. The group said that these collars are needed when dressing and so would consider these an orthosis donned as part of upper body dressing. However, they require two people to put them on - one to hold the patient's neck still while the other person positions & fastens the orthosis. Would you score this as a 5 - because it is an orthosis therefore is considered under set-up - or would you score this as a 1 - because it needs two people? Remember, it's an orthosis.

**Answer:**

Aspen collars are an orthosis and the patient is required to wear it in order to sit/stand up to dress. It is therefore scored as a level 5, as it is supervision set-up. I believe that this is an example of the burden of care not being reflected accurately though as two people are required for the fitting of an aspen collar (much the same as TEDs being a 5 and assistance with socks being a 4 if this is the only help a person needs for lower body dressing – even though we all know that TEDs are harder to put on!)

**AROC Pricing 2008**

AROC will be increasing its charges for some items from 1 January 2008:

- FIM Workshops, facility based: $1,300 + gst
- FIM Workshops, AROC hosted: $160 + gst per participant
- SNAPshot training: $1,100 +gst

FIM credentialing exam and FIM manual prices will not change.

**Reminder—Christmas Closure**

AROC will be closed from Friday 21st December 2007 and will return in the New Year on Monday 7th January 2008.

We hope you all have a very happy and safe Christmas and that Santa brings you lots of goodies.