The AOD Nurse Practitioner Project

PROJECT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2003

This report is an update of activities since the second national meeting of the AOD Nurse Practitioner Project held at NCETA in July, 2003.

Recent activities

Since the last meeting, a number of key activities have been conducted to progress the project. We (the project team comprising the Consortium and the Project Officer) have produced and revised the report produced from the second national meeting and commenced its broader circulation. Copy of the report may be found at www.danaonline.org. We are in the process of confirming the final membership of the Steering Committee and Reference Group, and arranging contact with authorisation bodies regarding the project and the implications this project may have for them. We delegated a formulary group to compile a formulary comprising key medications and other pharmaceuticals considered crucial to the AOD specific and broader role that the AOD NP may undertake during the course of their work. Although the formulary has been complied, this group are yet to meet again and develop this aspect of the project.

Research activities for the AOD NP role

Other key activities have included the development of a research proposal intended to assist in the development of standards, by gaining information from the field regarding specific role and tasks that the AOD field believes is crucial to the work of an AOD Nurse Practitioner. This research involves surveying professionals with a clinical role in responding to AOD issues, such as nurses, medical officers, psychologists, pharmacists, social workers and academics, for example, on key issues related to the (sometimes considered controversial) NP role. It also aims to gain some information regarding the demand for the role from a service delivery, educational and workforce planning perspective, by consulting with managers of AOD services re their intentions or thoughts about implementing the AOD NP role in their services. The survey also aims to elicit information regarding experienced nurses’ intention to prepare for the AOD NP role. The project team is also interested in perceptions within the field regarding the AOD NP, including those who may be less supportive of the role.

This research comprises one of few Australian studies on Nurse Practitioners to gain an evidence base to inform role development, and has been informed by an extensive review of the literature.

The survey was made available from the Drug and Alcohol Nurses Australasia (DANA) / APSAD stand during the APSAD conference held in Brisbane, November, 2003, and on the DANA Website.

The research has been approved by the University of South Australia ethics committee.

Please contact Jodie Shoobridge at NCETA on (08) 8201 7540 or email jodie.shoobridge@flinders.edu.au for further information.

Note: The AOD Nurse Practitioner project is not funded at this point, relying on ‘in-kind support from the Consortium, and the interest and goodwill of those who have been involved in the project to date. The research components are currently supported by a small Post-Graduate Workforce Development Grant.