

Keeping Well

Review of Healthy Skin in Greater Wellington Report - May 2012

Introduction

In May 2011, Keeping Well facilitated a hui that brought together people in the health sector known to be interested in reducing serious skin infection. The group worked on and agreed a roadmap (attached) which identified the following ten action areas:

- Action Area 1 – Common Messages, Guidelines and Protocols
- Action Area 2 - Data Collection and Evaluation
- Action Area 3 - Engagement with the wider health sector
- Action Area 4 - Workforce Development
- Action Area 5 - Access to Healthcare
- Action Area 6 - Focus resources to where need is greatest
- Action Area 7 - Work with whanau and focus on children and communities
- Action Area 8 - Settings – educational, work, sport, social etc
- Action Area 9 - Housing environment
- Action Area 10 - Access to resources

Further hui were held in July, September and November 2011. Five areas were prioritised for co-ordinated action:

- Common Messages, Guidelines and Protocols – a working group was established and this work is well advanced
- Data Collection and Evaluation – a working group met once and there is more work to do
- Engagement with the wider health sector – this has been partly addressed through the dissemination of resources
- Workforce Development – this will commence with the finalisation of the protocol
- Access to Healthcare – an initial briefing addressing barriers to health care was developed by Keeping Well

At a hui in March 2012 we reviewed the initiative overall and discussed how it should proceed. Hui participants and members of the Healthy Skin in Greater Wellington network members were invited to feedback on three review questions:

1. what have we achieved?
2. what have we learned?
3. where are we going?

The summary below reflects the common themes that emerged from the 15 stakeholders that responded.

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Review Questions and Summary of Feedback

1. What have we achieved?

- Development of an agreed Roadmap to guide action
- Development and dissemination of common messages for keeping skin healthy and managing skin infections (and other conditions)
- Development of the Healthy Skin Tool as a education resource
- Raising awareness of skin infection to a wide group in health and other sectors
- Development of protocols and guidelines for clinicians on the management of skin conditions
- Developing capability of different professional groups to manage skin conditions
- Creating a network across professional and geographic boundaries: between DHBs; across regional boundaries; and between public health, primary care, hospital and community providers
- We have demonstrated a cross sector approach by working together across community providers, population health, primary and secondary care.

2. What we have learned?

- Project co-ordination and support is essential
- A more formal project management approach (e.g TOR, clear roles and responsibilities) would make the process more efficient and effective
- It takes time for everyone to engage, get agreement, and develop tolerance and mutual understanding
- Prioritising actions to achieve tangible results
- The importance of prevention
- Data collection is complicated and needs resourcing.
- Financial as well as 'in kind' resource can 'bind' a group and is very important
- Health sector not sole player (MSD, HNZ, TLA etc) in health of communities
- You can teach an old dog new tricks!

3. Where are we going?

- Continue as a group to progress the identified actions in the Roadmap
- Actively use the tool and protocol so that they become embedded in practice
- Refocus on prevention especially in the community
- Add a communications work stream

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Next steps

The general consensus from stakeholder feedback was that while we have achieved much, we have only 'scratched the surface' and there is more to do with a willing group of people. Based on the review feedback, Keeping Well proposes the following next steps:

1. Continue the Healthy Skin in Greater Wellington network for communication and information sharing.
2. Establish a core group from across the sector to 'drive' work and sponsor work streams identified in the Roadmap. This group to:
 - identify co-leaders (one clinical and one non clinical) for the Core Group
 - identify secretariat support
 - develop a Terms of Reference that identifies roles and responsibilities
 - develop a communications strategy
 - Identify sponsors for work streams and networks
3. Ongoing projects with leaders:
 - Action Area 1: Common messages and guidelines: to further develop resources including translation
 - Action Area 2: Data Collection
 - Action Area 4: Workforce Development – (including Action Area 3 - Engagement with the wider health sector)
4. Ongoing networking on wider determinants and settings, possibly leading to projects in the future:
 - Action Area 5: Access to healthcare
 - Action Area 6 - Focus resources to where need is greatest
 - Action Area 7 - Work with whanau and focus on children and communities
 - Action Area 8: Working in settings – educational, work, sports, social etc
 - Action Area 9: Housing environment
 - Action Area 10: Access to resources including income
5. Members of the Healthy Skin in Greater Wellington network to be invited to indicate future level of engagement and the appropriate roles.