

Teamwork: Burns Management Program. Collaboration and education across a state-wide network

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ABSTRACT

Introduction/purpose

WA covers 2.6 million km² with a population of 2.6 million people. There are over 80 hospitals in Western Australia (WA), most of which are outside the metropolitan area. WA Country Health Service (WACHS) is the largest country health system in Australia. Burns Service WA consists of 1 paediatric burns unit with 9 beds and 1 adult burns unit with 10 beds. Both these units are in Perth. In Australia, 35% of burns occurred in the regional areas and a further 5% in remote areas, highlighting the need for provision of education for rural and remote clinicians.

Aim

The aim of the Burns Management Program is to provide evidenced based education to rural and remote clinicians. This will reduce unnecessary transfers, build community relations and reduce the isolation felt by rural and remote clinicians.

Method

A multidisciplinary team consisting of a medical consultant, clinical nurse consultant, senior occupational therapist and senior physiotherapist travel to each of the telehealth regions every year and deliver a 6 hour burns course. The course includes lectures and workshops. Pre and post course tests are administered to identify personal learning goals as well as course modifications. Evaluation of each course is collected to facilitate course improvement.

Results/Outcomes

Post course tests show an improvement in participant knowledge. An increase in rural and remote referrals is occurring and clinicians report an increase in confidence when managing a person with a burn injury.

Recommendations

Engagement of Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal Medical Service and offshore clinicians to attend.

Review of our clinical indicators following delivery of the course to an area will further consolidate learning objectives.