

To whomsoever this may concern,

I am writing to you to thank you for awarding me the Regal Home Health Scholarship for 2018. This scholarship enabled me to attend and present at the 11th Annual Hospital in the Home (HITH) Society Conference in Brisbane this November. I was able to showcase the wonderful work which Sydney Children's Hospital Network is undertaking to keep children close to home or at home through HITH services. My presentation titled 'Home Improvement: Changing and Challenging HITH with Sim' received great reviews and really tied in well with the conference themes of engage, learn, inspire, educate. The presentation was awarded best presentation at the conference. Additionally, I valued the support of Dr Phillip Darby (key note speaker) who approached following our presentation and spent time giving valuable feedback and information about transforming the presentation into a journal article.

The conference provided me with a great avenue to network with other adult and paediatric HITH services plus the opportunity to engage with key note speakers. I really enjoyed the presentations in particular those by key note speaker Dr Phillip Darby, Dr John Cass Verco, Dr David Ruttledge & Megan Hollamby. Dr Cass Verco presented on domestic violence (DV) screening of HITH patients and the information conveyed through this presentation was excellent. It really struck home the impact which DV has on the family as a whole and how as health workers (particularly in paediatrics) we have an opportunity to assist and identify families experiencing DV. The screening tool which was developed to identify at risk families is one that could be transferred and easily adapted for HITH and I found it interesting how they approached staff engagement and education regarding screening patients. Before a family is admitted to HITH at SCHN a home risk assessment is conducted which does pose the question of current or past history of DV. However, the HITH staff have always struggled regarding this question particularly as there are no clear guidance as to what to do in the event of a disclosure. Dr Cass Verco's presentation provided information as to when a parent discloses DV concerns and provided additional useful questions which staff may ask to get a better response to this question. I have approached our ambulatory management following on from further

discussion with Dr Cass Verco to arrange that SCHN commences DV screening for HITH families.

I attended the Clinical leadership workshop offered at the conference. This workshop which focused on gaining clinical engagement and input, provided the opportunity to gain insight into why clinicians are reluctant to or failing to refer patients to HITH. The impact of this for the discharge process of patients is huge and showed the often underutilisation of HITH services. By attending this interactive workshop, I was able to ask key questions relating to SCHN HITH service, network with clinicians of other states and obtain strategies that help to engage, educate and advise clinicians regarding HITH whilst becoming a better advocate for patients to discharge to HITH.

The conference enabled me to interact and discuss issues affecting patient discharge to HITH. One of the key problems SCHN experienced was with the use of infusers. The infuser would not free flow once connected to the access device despite free flowing before connection and therefore patients were missing out on essential antibiotics. It was great to be able to discuss this with the representative from the company and to find out why this may be occurring with possible solutions given.

Thank you once again for this opportunity. It was a great experience and one that I will certainly be advocating my colleagues to attend next year in Perth.

Kind Regards,
Rachael Sloane
CNS2 Kids GPS Ambulatory
Sydney Children Hospital Network (SCHN)