Residential Aged Care the Point Bearer in Good Continence Management: Working with a New Technology SIMsystem™

Carey, Lawrence, Barda & Yu - May 2010
Incontinence is the 2nd major reason given for Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) admission.

Incontinence is an item used to calculate funding & accredit RACF.

Individualised comprehensive continence assessment and continence care plans are utilised by the RACF:

- care provision
- accreditation and funding
The 3 day Bladder Diary forms an essential component of an assessment process

**AIM:** to provide an accurate, consistent and reliable voiding data that enables the effective care planning through electronic means - Telemedicine.

**Objective:** to reduce subjective and objective considerations often encountered in RACF's:

- Many and varied staff profile
- Complex and dynamic consumer base
- Heavy and varied workload
- Care versus documentation prioritisation
Continence Assessment Process

1. Event is read by the SIM™ box.
2. Event is recorded on the computer at the time it occurs.
3. Carer is notified via SMS text message on mobile phone or pager.
4. Carer attends to resident and administers care as required. This care intervention is recorded via the SIM™ box.
Continence Assessment Interface
Remote monitoring of incontinence

The Issues

End user acceptance of information technology solutions are determined by two key factors: (Davis 1989)

1. Perceived usefulness of the technology
2. Perceived ease of use of the technology

The Participants

N= 15 RACF Staff across 2 facilities
N= 78 RACF Residents across 3 facilities
User Acceptance

Overwhelmingly positive

Usefulness and accuracy

"[It] let us know when they are wet and someone needed to be changed... the computer [informed us] how wet they were."

Ease of use

- Time savings for carers

Beneficial

- staff believed they were more responsive
- to residents toileting needs
- residents - drier and less susceptible to skin deterioration

Overall Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Previous practice</th>
<th>SIMsystem™ usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy to Perform</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Extreme dissatisfaction 1  ↔  7 extremely satisfied
Pre and Post SIMsystem™ Assessment

43.33% Reduction

Pre SIM™ assessment: 5,732
Post SIM™ assessment: 3,248

Total Daily MI Capacities
### 24 hour product usage

#### A Comparative Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>light/moderate pads</th>
<th>Moderate/heavey Pads</th>
<th>All in ones</th>
<th>Pull ups</th>
<th>Bed Pads</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pre assessment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post assessment</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

N = pad used
Toileting Changes

Resident SIM™ system Toileting Changes

Times Toileted per Day

- **Pre Assessment**: 4.86
- **Post Assessment**: 3.64

Legend:
- Blue: Pre Assessment
- Yellow: Post Assessment
Conclusions:

The Tele-Medical device

- improved accuracy and completeness of urinary frequency and volume information.
- provided a more accurate picture of residents natural micturition pattern
- Staff reported, data readouts enabled high levels of confidence in accepting and making care changes
- identified a 40% predisposition for larger more absorbent pads to be used than each resident actually needed;
- facilitated better reported consumer outcomes
- identified opportunities to reduce environmentally significant waste by 30%
- was widely accepted by care staff and residents in relation to application and usage
What the future holds:

**Workforce issues:**
Challenging institutionalised used of disposable continence products and replacing this practice with appropriate individualised product selection

**Models of care**
Personalised service delivery that embeds and promotes A Quality of Life that justifiably balances dignity, *Dignity of Risk* and duty of care.

“the acknowledgment that people need to take risks as part of ‘regular’ living.”

*Dignity of Risk*: to use a toilet and not have to wear absorbent products just in case.