



Dialogue forum for Administrators
of Amputee and Artificial Limb
Services within Australia

Feedback Forum- 3 November 1999

Representatives from prosthetic and manufacturing groups met prior to the ISPO Conference Hobart on Wednesday, 3 November 1999.

The previous year's feedback had brought out a number of issues, some of which were acted upon by ALS Managers throughout 1999.

Mr Ron Simard, Convenor of the ALS Managers' Forum, welcomed 34 attendees and then opened the discussion on topics listed below (circulated prior to the meeting) as well as other issues raised during the session.

National Indicator of Cost (www.alsa.org.au/)

The purpose, structure and format of this addition to the website were outlined. It contains significant historical data and represents a starting point for industry input.

Comments/Discussion:

- Cost of administration should be added to represent more accurate costs.
- State figures are arguably not realistic but they are snapshots of time of what is actually happening.
- Industry can influence change.
- Mechanisms are in place to ensure that the data is being updated.
- Request for industry submissions were made. Requests for industry to review/AOPA or other industry reviews. (The PMA would forward any existing reviews to the Secretary of the ALS Managers' Forum.)

RESOURCE PAGE

Australia-wide Update Seminar

The Telemedicine Update Seminar 'ProControl 2 from Motion Control' held Friday, January 28th 2000 has a **RESOURCE PAGE** covering details discussed during the presentation.

It is located at:
<http://rehabtech.eng.monash.edu.au/motioncontrol/>
Download the presentations on the ProControl 2, or the demonstration software.

Staff News at REHABTech

Pieter Groot, mechanical engineering student from University of Twente, Holland, has begun a 12 week practical placement with **REHABTech**.



Component Cost

Ron Simard stated this issue was being addressed as part of QALS and that it was not necessarily an issue for other administrators or schemes and realised components were different to hourly rates. He asked whether component costs were meant to be reimbursed and whether profit came from hourly rate alone, or if component prices may include profit also?

Comments/Discussion:

- Discounting is commercial reality and it would be very difficult to separate component costs from any discounts.
- Hourly rate is a "flawed" model, so shouldn't influence component cost.
- Negotiations in QALS can look at any model.
- What model can be adopted that is acceptable to all different manufacturers and administrative schemes?

Other Issues

State-to-State services

Comments/Discussion:

- Patients must be able to access services across State borders.
- ALSA are working on this issue. Emergency work will be done in any state. If a limb is required then ALS Managers will enquire as to whether the request is legitimate and liaise with the originating State.
- A comprehensive arrangement needs to be worked out.

At the closure of the meeting, the Convenor thanked all participants. Any further comments should be forwarded to: *The Secretary, ALS Managers' Dialogue Forum* c/o **REHAB Tech**

Coming Events

10–14 April

Clinical Management of Upper Limb Amputees

This 5-day intensive hands-on course focuses on the team approach to patient care.

Early bird registration available till 6 March — forms from **RehabTech**.

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