

**Issue: Pat Slides**

Raised by: Carmen Mazzitelli, on behalf of CA RANs

Background: A number of RAN's have been concerned for the Occupational Health and Safety of staff in relation to the transfer of clients between beds. For example, between ambulance trolleys and clinic beds. Pat Slides were the suggested tool for the most practical solution.

Previously, Slippery Sams have been utilised in CA. There are some Pat slides in a few locations around the NT; more common in Top End health centres

Discussion: General agreement in Best Practice Group that Pat slides were a significantly important tool in reducing OH&S related injuries during client transfers. Decision made to survey all Health Centres to capture wider opinion of usefulness, and to ascertain how many Pat slides were already present in Remote Health Centres.

From the survey (see 'Consultation' below), it was clear that the majority of respondents agree that a Pat Slide is a useful piece of equipment for patient transfers, and would like one on-site. 7 of the 24 respondents already had them on-site.

The preferred size was longer & wider as opposed to the shorter/narrower version. The rationale given related to patient safety, better distribution of weight (especially in clients that are overweight or taller), ease of use for staff moving the patient and better suited for spinal patients.

Consultation: Survey to all DHCS Remote Health Centres – 24 respondents

(All survey responses were appreciated- thank you for the time given.)

References: Product websites

Outcome: Best Practice Group agrees that Pat Slides are a critical piece of equipment for staff safety and the safety of the clients.

Best Practice Group recommends the rollout of Pat slides to all remote clinics that do not have one already.

In view of current budget constraints a centralised purchase will be actioned following the commencement of the new financial year.