Welcome to the forth CARE Newsletter! This month we will be filling you in on the progress of the study, and talking about the changes, challenges and accomplishments that we have had. As a reminder, if you would like to add anything to the newsletter, you can always reach us at mpsrc@mcmaster.ca.

**Enrollment Update - 23 Patients Enrolled! 66% Completed!**

The fall was a little quieter for CARE recruitment, but December has seen an increase, with a total of 3 new patients enrolled! We would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and residents for their help in making this possible!

Please continue to contact Julia immediately any time you see a child who is eligible for a feeding tube insertion and has a caregiver who meets the inclusion criteria so we can keep up the great enrollment!

We have found that it is more effective when we are able to meet with the potential participants during their clinic appointments as opposed to calling and following up with them after the patient has left the clinic - so please call Julia at 76692 or page her at 7058 when the patient is in clinic.

We also have our first CARE patients reaching their 12 month visit! This is very exciting and we have created a special CARE thank you card to show our appreciation for their participation.

**Funding Update**

We have applied and been approved for extension of our current funding from Surgical Associates in the Department of Surgery. This is great news as we have almost reached our goal of 30 patients but we still need funding to sustain the 12 month follow up for each new patient we recruit.

**RMA Billing**

Please forward your RMA Billing information for solo PEG procedures and G tube placement with another procedure (RMA billing codes S118 and Z532) to mpsrc@mcmaster.ca so the screening log can be updated and revised for accuracy. This screening log information is very valuable in this pilot study as it is our primary outcome!

**Scheduling Follow-Up Visits**

We'd like to request that, if possible, the first post insertion appointment (i.e., post-op apt) for the patients be scheduled 2 weeks (+/- 1 week) following their feeding tube operation, as to coincide with the time frame outlined in the CARE protocol.

We'd also like to request that at these follow up appointments the height and weight of each of the patients be recorded as it is difficult for us to obtain this information after the patient has left the clinic. Thank you once again for all your assistance!

**Introducing the Study to Potential Participants**

We have found that the way in which the study is introduced and presented to a potential participant influences their decision to enroll. Below we have prepared a script that will hopefully help when introducing the study:

“We have a really great study that you might be interested in participating in. The goal of the study is to see what can be done to assist caregivers who have children with feeding tubes by comparing the quality of life before and after the insertion of the tube. We realize that this is a tough decision for you, but we can assure you that your child’s treatment will not be affected in any way by your decision. If you’re interested we can have our Research Coordinator come down and discuss this with you.”

Thank you for your support!

See you in the New Year!

Dr. Mark Walton (PI) and the CARE study team