The FeSS Implementation Strategy

The FeSS Implementation Strategy consisted of workshops, educational meetings and reminders as outlined below:

1. Two teambuilding workshops were held at each stroke unit to identify perceived barriers and enablers prior to implementation of the clinical protocols as follows:
   a. Workshop one: targeted senior multidisciplinary clinical stroke unit members (medical director, nurse unit manager, stroke unit co-ordinator, clinical nurse consultant, stroke fellow/registrar and director of speech pathology). The Fess protocols were explained, barriers and enablers were discussed and local key champions were identified. The process for local implementation of the FeSS protocols was agreed.
   b. Workshop two: targeted multidisciplinary bedside clinicians (nurses, speech pathologist, junior doctors and allied health members). The protocols were discussed and any further barriers and enablers were identified. These workshops also reinforced the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork.
   c. Researchers worked with each individual unit to address these barriers and promoted the enablers.

2. Two interactive and didactic educational outreach meetings were conducted to inform all stroke unit staff about the protocols. A FeSS educational PowerPoint® presentation was used at all sites. These educational outreach meetings were delivered by the Project Officer who visited each site twice. The presentation then was left with the stroke unit educators to deliver to those staff who had been unable to attend and to new staff during the course of the study.

3. Reminders and support for the study were given as follows:
   a. Six weekly site visits by the Project Officer to discuss how the clinical protocols were being implemented and solutions to any issues encountered
   b. Pro & reactive phone calls and email from the Project Officer, to discuss any immediate issues identified by either the units or the Project Officer.

This strategy was used in conjunction with the FeSS clinical treatment protocols and not as a stand-alone strategy.