

Southern Tasmania Area Health Service Nurse Practitioner - Aged Care

Overview of Scope of Service

The Southern Tasmania Area Health Service has recently introduced the role of a Nurse Practitioner – Aged Care. This position aims to complement and enhance the current services offered by the RHH Aged Services and Geriatric Rehabilitation teams and support GPs in their ability to manage the elderly population and those with aged related illnesses.

Nurse Practitioner Aged Care Model

The model is an 'early response' outreach service to Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and Community Dwelling Clients. A General Practitioner (GP) referral would be necessary prior to the client being assessed. In some circumstances the initial assessment may be undertaken in the Emergency Department or clinic. The model will provide timely episodes of care of approximately two weeks, incorporating: comprehensive geriatric assessment, investigations and treatment within the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Aged Care scope of practice; initial case management in collaboration with the client's GP. The NP will also liaise closely with other service teams including: Geriatricians, Older Persons Mental Health, Community Services, other specialty nursing services as required.

Target Client Populations

The proposed model will provide a time-limited (i.e. up to two weeks) early response to:

- Patients who have experienced a decline in function which the referring doctor anticipates would result in a high-likelihood of an acute hospital admission if not assessed and treated in a timely manner.

Nurse Practitioner Services

- Comprehensive geriatric assessment
- Treatment of acute uncomplicated illnesses such as infections.
- Assistance with people with dementia, general care and service needs plus assessing stage of dementia and end-of-life plans for those with Stage 3 dementia. Also assistance with other end-stage illness planning.

Urgent Medical Conditions will be referred directly to the Emergency Department via Ambulance.

Communication with the GP would be undertaken.

Other complicated conditions would be discussed and managed by the client's main medical practitioner.

Treatment and Management Options of uncomplicated conditions by Aged Care Nurse Practitioner within scope of practice includes and is not limited to:

- Urinary tract infections, Community acquired pneumonia, Fungal infections such as candidiasis
- Wound infection / cellulitis, Conjunctivitis
- Pain (eg short term soft tissue injury)
- Constipation and faecal incontinence
- Cerumen blockage of auditory canal (using cerumen softeners)
- Delirium management (identifying causes and treatment of uncomplicated causes)
- Dementia management (not medication management)
- Identification of medication review needs (consultation with GP and linking with Home Medicines Review system)

Follow-up of treatment / plan

Referral: phone Jane Davis on

mobile: 0417 151 575

Phone: 6222 8318

Fax: 6222 8476

Professional Indemnity Arrangements and Clinical Supervision

- Professional Indemnity Cover by Royal Hobart Hospital, Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania
- Clinical Supervision and mentoring by Royal Hobart Hospital Department of Aged Care

A Memorandum of Understanding will be undertaken with Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Nurse Practitioner Referral Pathway

