

Murray HealthPathways is a localised, collaborative and structured approach to coordinating patient care between acute and primary health services.

What is HealthPathways?

HealthPathways is a health system coordination process that brings together GPs, specialists and other health professionals to confirm optimal assessment, management and specialist referral decisions within a local context. HealthPathways aims to reduce variations of care, particularly for patients with complex and/or chronic conditions and improve the quality and timeliness of referral processes and care coordination. HealthPathways provides evidence based best practice guidelines and local referral templates for clinicians resulting in a practical online manual used at the point of care, primarily by GPs. Included are resources for the clinician, as well as educational resources for the patient.

What are the benefits for patients?

- The right treatment and/or specialist care with shorter waiting times
- GPs can share patient educational resources aimed at self-management with patients

What are the benefits for GPs?

- A more efficient way to access assessment and management options to assist evidence based medicine
- Locally relevant information
- Information on how to refer to local services

What are the benefits for hospitals?

- Reduction in referrals to specialists for those patients who can be managed in the community
- Decreased waiting times in specialist clinics
- Improved referral information and diagnostics provided by GPs

Who else is involved?

Murray PHN is partnering with five health services across our region: Albury Wodonga Health, Bendigo Health Care Group, Goulburn Valley Health, Mildura Base Hospital, and Northeast Health Wangaratta. Other hospitals, community health and private allied health and specialists are also working with us in the HealthPathway process.

What is a Clinical Editor?

A Clinical Editor is a local, practicing GP who oversees the localisation of HealthPathways content. They research other Australian and New Zealand HealthPathways and evidence based guidelines, and resources to identify what information is needed.

They complete the initial drafting to localise HealthPathway and collaborate with specialists and other GPs in clinical work groups. Murray PHN currently has five GP clinical editors: Dr Anne-Marie McKinnon, Dr Christie Rodda, Dr Elspeth Harrison, Dr Jane Neyland and Dr Margi Gould.

What is a clinical work group?

A clinical work group consists of a team of approximately six subject matter experts including GPs, specialists from regional hospitals, other relevant health staff and HealthPathways project members. They come together to discuss what is working well and where there are barriers for patients with specific conditions. They work collaboratively to localise HealthPathways.

Who prioritises pathways?

Choosing the priority of pathways to be developed is based on population health data, national and local health priorities and a pragmatic approach to ensuring success.

How can I access HealthPathways?

All that is needed is an internet connection. All public and private health professionals working within the Murray PHN catchment area will have free access to the Murray PHN HealthPathways website.

When will it be available?

The website will be launched on 9 November 2016.

What will health professionals see on the website at launch?

When the website is launched, health professionals will be able to use the localised Murray HealthPathways, (approximately 40 pages), but for conditions not yet localised, New Zealand pathways will also be available. Whilst not offering local referral information, the New Zealand clinical guidelines have been widely used by Australian health professionals. These will progressively be localised for the Murray PHN catchment.

What is the review process?

Every HealthPathway has a scheduled review between 12 - 24 months to ensure information stays evidence based, in addition to updates made in response to user feedback.

Can patients access HealthPathways?

No, this is a website for health professionals only.

How can health professionals get involved?

Murray PHN is seeking the involvement of GPs, medical specialists, nurses, allied health and other health care professionals who are interested in participating in the Murray HealthPathways Clinical Working Groups.

Health professionals can use the feedback button on each HealthPathway page to suggest topics for localisation and provide suggestions for improvements. as well as the *Suggest a Pathway* online form on the HealthPathways page of the Murray PHN website

Regional Murray HealthPathways contact details

Central Victoria

t: 03 5441 7806

e: healthpathwayscv@murrayphn.org.au

Goulburn Valley

t: 03 5831 5399

e: healthpathwaysgv@murrayphn.org.au

North East Victoria

t: 02 6041 0000

e: healthpathwaysne@murrayphn.org.au

North West Victoria

t: 03 4040 4300

e: healthpathwaysnw@murrayphn.org.au