

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 General Practitioners (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. This results in a practical online manual used at the first 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?

- ✓ 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 has partnered 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 HealthPathways 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.

Clinical Editors complete the initial drafting to localise HealthPathways and collaborate with specialists and other GPs in clinical work groups. GPs that are assisting Murray PHN include: Dr Margi Gould, Dr Ann-Marie McKinnon, Dr Claire Simpson and Dr Ray Moore.

What is a Medical Advisor?

Medical Advisors are practicing GPs that have extensive clinical and educational experience. There is one medical advisor in each of our four regions and they work closely with our clinical editors to ensure the needs of general practice are being met. Murray PHN's medical advisors are: Dr Ewa Piejko, Dr Susan Furphy, Dr Wendy Connor, and Dr Philip Webster.

What is a Clinical Work Group?

A Clinical Work Group (CWG) consists of a team of approximately six subject matter experts. CWGs generally include GPs, specialists from regional hospitals and other relevant health staff. Work groups come together to discuss what is working well locally 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. With this the HealthPathways team take a pragmatic approach to the identification process, ensuring community and populations needs are met.

How can I access HealthPathways?

All you need 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.

What is the review process?

Every HealthPathways has a scheduled review between 12-36 months to ensure information stays evidence-based, in addition to updates made in response to user feedback.

Can patients access HealthPathways?

Patients can only access resources with their medical professional at the time of consultation.

How can health professionals get involved?

Murray PHN requires a range of GPs, medical specialists, nurses, allied health and other health care professionals with varying specialities to participate in our clinical working groups. The groups also provide participants with the opportunity to network with health professionals who have the same interests.

Health professionals can use the feedback button on each HealthPathways 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 murrayphn.org.au/pathways

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