
Implementing HealthPathways

Initiative Type

Service Improvement

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Deliver

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<https://test.clinicalexcelsence.qld.gov.au/improvement-exchange/implementing-healthpathways>

Summary

Currently, referral practices and prioritisation decisions can depend on location, speciality and the clinician/s involved, with variable quality of interface between the local primary and acute sector. Once implemented, HealthPathways will be that conduit to form partnerships with primary healthcare networks and the hospital and health service.

Key dates

Jul 2016

Dec 2018

Implementation sites

Sites across 11 Hospital and Health Services

Partnerships

Primary Health Networks, Streamliners New Zealand, Healthcare Improvement Unit

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Aim

Benefits

- Agreed guidelines to help general practitioners assess, manage and refer to the acute sector.
- Improved referral and communication processes between referrers and specialist outpatient services.
- Each health jurisdiction tailors the content of HealthPathways to reflect local arrangements and opinion and are developed between primary and specialist services locally.
- Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) decision support tools are embedded within HealthPathways.
- Patient benefits from general practice having greater clarity for what can be provided and the appropriateness for obtaining further specialist service and alternative options.
- The local health system benefits through less demand on services as patients are better managed in the community, freeing up resources.

Background

HealthPathways started in Canterbury in 2008 and use has steadily increased to the point that 99 per cent of general practitioners surveyed in Canterbury 2013 use it weekly in their practice, 70 per cent of whom use it daily. In Queensland, two sites (Mackay and Townsville) had implemented HealthPathways locally. 2016 Clinical Excellence Division signed the state-wide licence. From this period, another 8 sites have implemented HealthPathways. Currently we have 800 plus HealthPathways live across Queensland.

Solutions Implemented

Implemented across the following sites:

- Wide Bay HealthPathways
- Sunshine Coast & Gympie HealthPathways
- Brisbane North HealthPathways
- SpotOnHealth (Brisbane South) HealthPathways
- Gold Coast HealthPathways
- West Moreton HealthPathways
- Darling Downs HealthPathways
- Western Queensland HealthPathways

References

[The Kings Fund: Developing accountable care systems: lessons from Canterbury, New Zealand](#)

Further Reading

[Clinical Prioritisation Criteria Specialist outpatient strategy Streamliners New Zealand](#)

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