

Frequently Asked Questions – Myth Busters edition

Is HealthPathways only for new GPs or those who don't know the region?

HealthPathways is useful for all health professionals, at all stages in their career. The pathways on our site are developed in collaboration with local specialists, so they are more than just an abridged guideline, but also provide current and local tools to assess and manage patients. Some pathways also include dosage information within the pathway so the information you need is all in the one spot.

Additionally, the referral pages contain location specific services (both private and public) that may be new to the region, current phone and fax numbers, access to online patient resources and contact details of local specialists who are happy to provide advice over the phone.

Can HealthPathways see what I am looking at when I log on?

The HealthPathways platform does collect usage data about page views, and sessions. The information we collect identifies what pages are most commonly viewed, and what professional groups are using the site. For example, from 13 to 17 November 2017, 63% of people who logged onto the site were GPs or GP Registrars. From the site usage data, we cannot see details about what state you are from, which practice you are in or which individual Dr has logged on – this would be a breach of privacy.

Why is there New Zealand Information?

The HealthPathways model originates from New Zealand, and 2 years ago only 60 pathways on our site were 'localised' to the ACT and SNSW region. We now have over [360 pathways and referral pages that are specific to our local region](#), with more pathways coming online each week. There is still some NZ information on our site, however it is still clinically relevant and often can be applied to patient care in Australia. We are working to localise as much content as possible. If there is a specific pathway you are interested in seeing localised, let us know via the send feedback button!

HealthPathways is a mass produced thing that has no relevance to me in 'insert regional location'

HealthPathways is local. The team responsible for writing, coordinating and gathering referral information for our site live and work in the ACT and SNSW. The project team is based in either ACT or Moruya and the Clinical editing team who write the pathways are practising GPs, GP Registrars and GP VMOs who work across the region, from Bega, Pambula, Tuross, Broulee, Bungendore and within Canberra.

Is HealthPathways up to date?

We all know how quickly information and guidelines change and how hard it is to keep up to date. ACT & SNSW HealthPathways work closely with ACT Health, SNSWLHD and the respective Primary Health Networks to try to provide current information about how to manage your patient locally, what referral options are available and how to access them.

Currently we are updating our Canberra Hospital Outpatient referral pages to reflect the new service descriptors which outline what conditions are a priority/urgent referral and those which would be better managed in General Practice. To support these changes, we provide information on other local referral options, including the GP Colleague referral page (Coming Soon!).

We also have information on newly commissioned services (like the new [drug and alcohol treatment service](#) available in the Eurobodalla) and a whole pathway regarding the new [Cervical Screening Program](#).

Is HealthPathways only for GP's and specialists?

The main objective of HealthPathways is to improve patient care as well as the referrals and transitions of care between primary and community care, hospitals and specialist services. Whilst staff based in the community or hospital may not use HealthPathways as regularly, it is very important they have familiarity and input into the pathways to ensure the available information is comprehensive and helps patients get the right care in the right place.

How often is HealthPathways updated or reviewed?

Each Pathway on our site is subject to a formal review process every two years. This means that the clinical content, referral/service options and lay out are reviewed to ensure the pathway is easy to use and current. As part of this review process, Subject Matter Experts are engaged to ensure that the clinical content reflects current practice.

In addition to the formal review process, HealthPathways content is regularly updated when required, for example, when there are changes to [Hepatitis C](#) prescribing, when new [mental health programs](#) are commissioned, when a referral form is updated, or in response to significant changes like the rescheduling of Codeine (Coming soon!).

If you see something which is not up to date, or you think isn't correct, then please click the [Send Feedback](#) button to let us know.