**Geriatrician in the Practice Project**

**Expression of Interest Information**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

The Geriatrician in the Practice initiative involves a Geriatrician and Clinical Nurse Consultant accompanying a GP in their rooms and providing a joint, integrated GP/specialist appointment that is easily accessible for patients, in an environment they are familiar with and comfortable in. The initiative will be implemented within the Shoalhaven Local Government Area and is funded by the NSW Ministry for Health under its Integrated Care – Planning and Innovation Fund. The Project is currently funded until June 2017 with the possibility of extension.

A Geriatrician and Clinical Nurse Consultant will visit a GP practice for a 3 ½ hour session once every 6 to 8 weeks, to conduct an initial joint dementia assessment to identified patients. The aim is to enhance dementia assessment skills of both GP’s and Practice Nurses and to improve linkages between Aged Specialist Services and Primary Health Providers.

The program commenced in November 2015 with 3 Pilot Practices. The Project expanded to 6 practices in July 2016. We are now looking to expand the Project to another 2-3 interested Practices in the Shoalhaven area.

The shared care clinics have been well received by patients, carers and practices. Here are some of their stories:

‘*Very happy and I loved not having to traipse into Shoalhaven Hospital from Vincentia’*

*‘THANK YOU- THANK YOU! I have never been able to convince my husband to come to see a Specialist at the hospital about his memory and very bad moods! Being able to bring him to the GP meant he was agreeable and even more relaxed. I feel so much better that we have been able to finally start this process’*

*‘Following the clients initial screening assessment of the client, with the both Karen Shepherd and the practice nurse, a handover to both the geriatrician and GP is given. The client and significant other/s are then invited for discussion and assessment, including review of lifestyle risk factors, health risk factors, MRI Brain, pathology and medications as needed. This provides a tremendous opportunity for frank and open discussion on treatment options and future care/support needs, including strategies determining medication options, the client’s capacity to drive, advanced care directive, legal matters, or referral options to other more Older Persons Mental Health Services in a ‘familiar’ and ‘safe’ environment offered by the GP surgery’.*

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Expressions of interest are being sought from practices who would like to participate in the expansion of the Geriatrician in Practice Project. We are seeking a further 2-3 practices to commence by November 2016.

Expressions of interest are due in by **COB Friday 30th September 2016 and** will be assessed by the Working Party for this project which comprises Local Health District and Primary Health Network (PHN) staff.

Once a practice has been selected as a site for the project, the Dementia/Delirium Clinical Nurse Consultant will meet with your Practice Manager to develop an establishment plan which will include agreeing on a process for identifying which patients will be suitable to participate in the program.

What is required from interested practices?

* Minimum of 6 patients who require assessment for dementia (existing patients from selected Pilot Practices on the Aged Care Outpatient Clinic Waiting List will be given priority)
* 2 consultation rooms and GP and Practice Nurse for 4 hours every 6 weeks over an initial 3-4 month period
* Willingness of GP, practice nurse and practice staff to contribute to development of service model and its evaluation
* Willingness to complete questionnaire pre and post commencement of service delivery
* Ensuring relevant diagnostic tests are carried out prior to the integrated GP/specialist appointment, this would be negotiated with the Practice Manager and the Dementia/Delirium Clinical Nurse Consultant as part of the planning process
* Sharing of information re medications pre and post assessment
* Ability to start by November 2016
* Flexibility with available days to host Geriatrician in Practice Clinic.

ISLHD will provide:

* Geriatrician and Clinical Nurse Consultant working with Practice Staff for the duration of the Project or until the Practice wishes to withdraw from the Geriatrician in Practice Project.
* ‘on the job’ training regarding:
  + assessments for dementia,
  + dementia diagnosis,
  + interpretation of investigations;
  + management options; and
  + prognosis for dementia
* Resources that are used in cognitive screening
* Documentation of outcome of assessment

COORDINARE, South East NSW PHN will provide:

* Support with CPD points for ‘on the job’ training as outlined above
* Support with facilitating use of secure messaging between practices and ISLHD specialists
* Assistance with the development of a viable business model

**HOW TO APPLY**

If your practice would like to participate in this initiative and is able to contribute all the items outlined above please provide the following information in your expression of interest.

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| --- | --- |
| Name of Practice |  |
| Address |  |
| Contact person |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Size of the practice |  |
| Clinical management software currently used |  |
| Outline of your practices ability to meet the requirements for the Expression of Interest as outlined on page 1 |  |
| Outline any additional issues you would like to negotiate before proceeding |  |
| Preferred days/times to host Geriatrician in Practice Clinics |  |

Please submit your EOI via email to Karen Shepherd, ISLHD Dementia/Delirium CNC (Community)  
Tel: (02) 4423 9341 Mob: 0477310367 [karen.shepherd@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karen.shepherd@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

Karen can also be contacted on the above details of you require further information.