

Health Pathways Program Brisbane North Primary Health Network

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RBWH

Dr John W Bennett MBBS PhD FRACGP
Clinical Editor

Background

- Joint project between Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service (HHS)
- Commenced in October 2016
- Aims to improve the continuity of patient care between primary care, community & hospital settings
- Development of clinical pathways for a range of conditions and services.

History

- 98 pathways for 50 clinical conditions published and hosted via Map of Medicine
 - Map of Medicine UK based
- evaluation completed 2016 – found that the tool was used as a reference but there were challenges in use at point of care

Transition to Health Pathways

- Improve referral quality through Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) Queensland Health has purchased the licence
- Provides a consistent tool across the state
- www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/referrals/clinical-prioritisation/about

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria



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Clinical Prioritisation Criteria

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria

About clinical prioritisation criteria

The introduction of clinical decision support tools called Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) will support referring practitioners, including GPs, when referring patients to Specialist Outpatient Services.

Developing clinical prioritisation criteria

Information on the stages of development around Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC).

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria - ICT solution

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) are clinical decision support tools that will help ensure patients referred for public specialist outpatient services in Queensland are assessed in order of clinical urgency.

Engagement

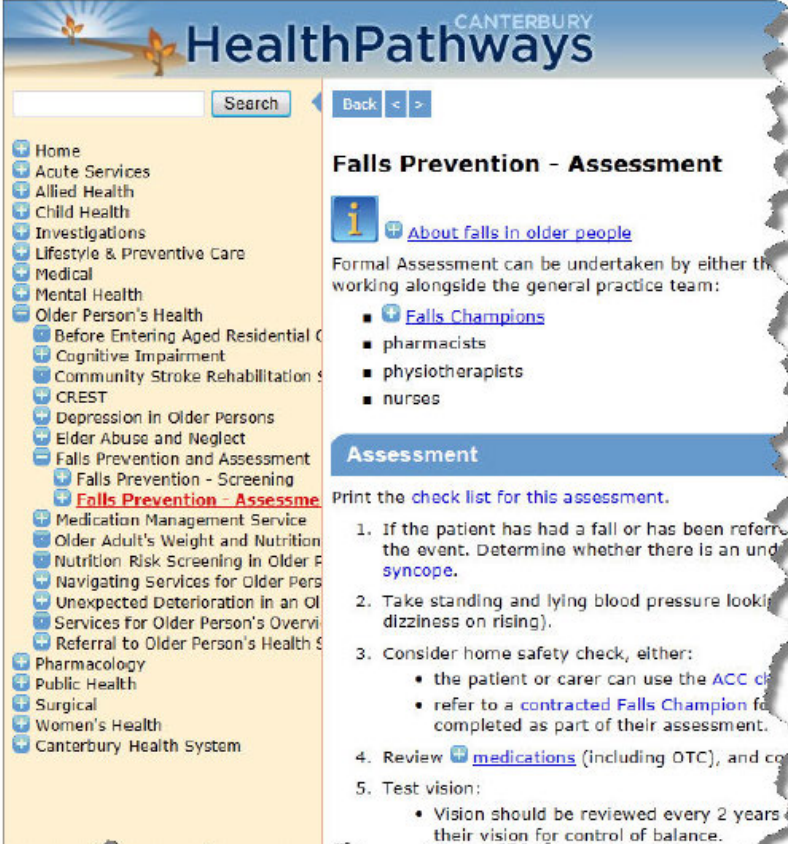
Engagement with primary care and hospital clinical stakeholders across Queensland, including rural and remote areas.

Implementation

The Implementation Advisory Group will provide advice and guidance on business processes, workflow risks and impacts, patient safety, IT and performance monitoring.

Six years in Canterbury

- 500+ locally developed pathways
- agreements between primary care and specialists on management of conditions
- hundreds of clinicians involved in their creation
- used daily



HealthPathways CANTERBURY

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Falls Prevention - Assessment

i [About falls in older people](#)

Formal Assessment can be undertaken by either the working alongside the general practice team:

- [Falls Champions](#)
- pharmacists
- physiotherapists
- nurses

Assessment

Print the [check list for this assessment](#).

1. If the patient has had a fall or has been referred to the event. Determine whether there is an underlying [syncope](#).
2. Take standing and lying blood pressure looking for dizziness on rising).
3. Consider home safety check, either:
 - the patient or carer can use the [ACC check](#)
 - refer to a [contracted Falls Champion](#) for completed as part of their assessment.
4. Review [medications](#) (including OTC), and co
5. Test vision:
 - Vision should be reviewed every 2 years or their vision for control of balance.

Benefits of Health Pathways

- Web-based tool
- Relevant local clinical information
- Easy to use at point of care
- Over 100 clinical pathways complete
- Responsive to GP feedback

Search

- Differentiating Asthma from COPD
- Stable COPD Management and Review
- Medications in COPD
- Home Oxygen
- **Acute Exacerbation of COPD**
- Advanced or End-stage COPD
- COPD Referral

- Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) in
- Dyspnoea
- Haemoptysis
- Legionnaires' Disease
- Pulmonary Embolism (PE)
- Spirometry Testing and Interpretation
- Tuberculosis
- + Respiratory Requests

- + Rheumatology
- + Sexual Health
- + Sleep
- + Spinal Cord Impairment (SCI)

+ Mental Health

- Older Adults' Health

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- Carer Stress
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Acute Exacerbation of COPD



+ [About acute exacerbations of COPD](#)

Red Flags

- 🚩 Respiratory failure e.g., cyanosis, oxygen saturation < 88%, confusion
- 🚩 Drowsiness
- 🚩 Sepsis
- 🚩 Rapid decline
- 🚩 Peripheral oedema

Assessment

1. Assess for + [features of exacerbation](#).
2. Perform + [pulse oximetry](#).
3. Consider arranging investigations:
 - + [Spirometry](#).
 - If peripheral O2 saturation on pulse oximetry is < 92%, assess arterial blood gases.
 - + [Chest X-ray and ECG](#).
4. If purulent sputum, or patient is not responding to therapy:
 - consider + [sputum testing](#).
 - proceed with empirical antibiotic treatment while waiting for results.
 - avoid routine sputum testing in clinically stable patients with COPD.

Management

More than 80% of exacerbations can be safely managed in general practice.

2. In managing in general practice, consider medications:

- Short-acting bronchodilators
- [Prednisone](#) in moderate to severe exacerbations to reduce the severity and shorten recovery.
- [Antibiotics](#) only if clinical signs of infection i.e., increased volume and change in colour of sputum, fever, or leukocytosis. If no response to antibiotics, consider [sputum testing](#).

3. If the patient regularly brings up copious or tenacious sputum, consider requesting [physiotherapy](#) for treatment and education in airway-clearance techniques e.g., mechanical vibration and positive expiratory therapy (PEP).

4. Monitor for and manage other conditions, e.g., heart failure, asthma.

5. Follow up after one week:

- Review [medications and inhaler technique](#).
- Ensure that the patient has a [COPD action plan](#) for managing future exacerbations.
- If the patient's condition has stabilised, manage according to the [Stable COPD Management and Review](#) pathway.

Request

- Request [emergency assessment](#) if:
 - red flags.
 - failure of an exacerbation to respond to initial medical management.
 - presence of serious co-morbidities e.g., heart failure or newly occurring arrhythmias.
 - frequent exacerbations.
 - insufficient home support.
- If the patient regularly brings up copious or tenacious sputum, consider requesting [physiotherapy](#).

Information



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Bowel Cancer Screening



+ [About bowel cancer screening](#)

Assessment



Practice Point!

- Use faecal occult blood test (FOBT) screening only for asymptomatic patients at average risk of colorectal cancer (CRC).
- Do not request:
 - colonoscopy if patient asymptomatic or at average risk of CRC.
 - FOBT for patients with colorectal symptoms, or at medium or high risk of CRC, or with related conditions.

1. Take a history, assessing for:
 - any + [symptoms of colorectal disease](#).
 - personal history of CRC or related conditions (colonic polyps or adenomas, inflammatory bowel disease).
 - + [family history](#) of CRC.
2. Determine the patient's + [risk category](#).
3. Investigations for screening:
 - Not indicated for patients with symptoms of colorectal disease or personal history of CRC or related conditions. These patients require colonoscopy either for diagnosis or surveillance.
 - For other patients, base investigations on risk category:
 - Category 1 – offer + [FOBT](#) every 2 years, from age 50 years until age 74 years.
 - Category 2 – arrange colonoscopy every 5 years, either from age 50 years or from 10 years earlier than the youngest diagnosis of CRC in a relative.
 - Category 3 – arrange colonoscopy surveillance, with or without genetic screening or counselling.

Management

1. If positive FOBT result:
 - discuss the importance of further testing with the patient. Offer [patient information about colonoscopy](#).
 - request [non-acute gastroenterology assessment](#) for colonoscopy.
 - if positive result under the NBCSP, complete the NBCSP GP Assessment Report either [online](#) or [manually](#).

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1. If positive FOBT result:
 - discuss the importance of further testing with the patient. Offer [patient information about colonoscopy](#).
 - request [non-acute gastroenterology assessment](#) for colonoscopy.
 - if positive result under the NBCSP, complete the NBCSP GP Assessment Report either [online](#) or [manually](#).
 - The general practitioner will be remunerated for notifying the register.
 - This payment will be removed with the establishment of the [National Cancer Screening Register](#).
2. Request [non-acute gastroenterology assessment](#) for patients with:
 - colorectal symptoms – see the [relevant pathway](#).
 - related conditions unless already under specialist surveillance.
 - medium or high risk of CRC (categories 2 and 3) unless already under specialist surveillance.
3. If negative FOBT result, recommend and continue FOBT screening:
 - every 1 to 2 years in patients aged ≥ 50 years, and
 - until the age of 74 years, provided they remain asymptomatic.
4. Advise the patient to seek advice from their general practitioner if they develop any colorectal symptoms, even if they have had a negative FOBT recently.
5. If a patient at high risk of CRC (category 3) with known or suspected [familial syndrome](#), consider referral for [non-acute genetic health assessment](#).

Request

- Request [non-acute gastroenterology assessment](#) if:
 - colorectal symptoms.
 - patient (unless already under specialist surveillance) with:
 - related conditions.
 - medium or high risk of CRC (category 2 or 3).
 - patient with low risk of CRC and a positive FOBT – indicate on the referral whether the patient is an NBCSP participant.

Your patient may also want to consider a private [non-acute gastroenterology assessment](#).

- If high risk (category 3) patient with known or suspected familial syndrome, consider requesting [non-acute genetic health assessment](#).

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Access

for access contact the Pathways Program team
healthpathways@brisbanenorthphn.org.au,
phone 07 3630 7300, or speak to your Primary
Care Liaison Officer

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