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access by Gippsland
health professionals:
[https://gippsland.
healthpathways.org.au](https://gippsland.healthpathways.org.au)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Gippsland HealthPathways is a localised, collaborative and structured online approach to coordinating patient care between acute and primary health services.

What is HealthPathways?

HealthPathways is a health system coordination process that brings together 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 shared evidence-based best practice guidelines and local referral templates for clinicians resulting in a practical on-line resource used at the point of care, primarily by GPs. Included are clinical resources for the clinician, as well as educational resources for the patient.

It does not replace clinical decision-making, it supports it.

How can I access Gippsland HealthPathways?

All that is needed is an internet connection. All public and private health professionals working within the Gippsland PHN catchment area can request access to the Gippsland PHN HealthPathways webportal.

A shortcut link can be placed on your computer's desktop.

Can my access to Gippsland HealthPathways be incorporated with other medical software?

If you use Medical Director, you will have the ability to create a shortcut link to Gippsland HealthPathways within the software.

What are the benefits for patients?

- ✓ Improved access to the right care, in the right place at the right time
- ✓ The right treatment and/or specialist care with shorter waiting times for patients
- ✓ GPs can share patient educational resources aimed at self-management.

What are the benefits for GPs?

- ✓ A 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.

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. They complete the initial drafting to localise a specific HealthPathway and collaborate with specialists and other GPs in workgroups.

Gippsland PHN recruits clinical editors who are currently working on the development of the content for HealthPathways Gippsland.

Who else is involved?

Gippsland PHN, in consultation with the Gippsland Health Service CEOs and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), acknowledge that a regional health system that responds effectively to community needs requires all health services to work collaboratively.

Gippsland PHN has signed participation agreements with six local hospitals, and also received commitment from DHHS about their participation and involvement during the Gippsland HealthPathways development.

We actively engage with other hospitals, community and private allied health and specialists as HealthPathways progress.

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Is all content related to Gippsland only?

Inside the webportal, health professionals will be able to use the localised Gippsland HealthPathways - indicated by dark blue links in the menu options.

For conditions not yet localised, New Zealand pathways may be available - indicated by black links in the menu options. Whilst not offering local referral information, the New Zealand clinical guidelines have been widely used by Australian health professionals. HealthPathways will progressively be localised for the Gippsland PHN catchment.

What is the review process?

Every HealthPathway has a scheduled review between 12 - 24 months to ensure information stays evidence-based, in addition to updates made in response to user feedback.

Can users provide feedback on content?

We welcome feedback as part of continuous quality improvement. Provide feedback from from Gippsland HealthPathways portal by using the call to feedback button within each pathway.

Can patients access HealthPathways?

No, this is a website for use by health professionals only.

Will telehealth referral options be included?

Yes, where available, telehealth will be included as a referral option for specialist management in the Gippsland PHN catchment.

How can health professionals get involved?

Gippsland PHN is keen to work with local GPs, medical specialists, nurses, allied health and other health care professionals who are interested in participating in the Gippsland HealthPathways Working Groups.

Once HealthPathways is launched, health professionals can suggest topics for localisation and provide suggestions for improvements via the easy to access feedback button on the site.

There is also a *request for creating a new healthpathway* form available on Gippsland PHN website.

For more information contact:

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Or visit the Gippsland PHN website:

www.gphn.org.au/programs/healthpathways/