

Gippsland

HealthPathways

a step towards a more connected local health system

Gippsland PHN in consultation with the Gippsland Health Services CEOs and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has acknowledged that a regional health system that responds effectively to community needs requires all health services to work collaboratively to ensure people obtain the most effective care at the right time in the most appropriate setting.

The aim of Gippsland HealthPathways is to assist health services and providers build a more sustainable and integrated health system for Gippsland.

HealthPathways are designed for use during consultation and are jointly developed by consensus and collaboration between hospital clinicians and general practice teams. Implementation of HealthPathways will assist clinicians navigate patients through what can be a complex primary, community and acute health care system and enable a more seamless patient journey.

Gippsland PHN is delighted to work with HealthPathways, DHHS, health services and general practices to develop this innovative program to improve health systems integration and benefit community outcomes.

What is HealthPathways?

HealthPathways is a collaborative and structured approach to coordinating patient care across the acute and primary care interface. It brings together GPs, specialists, nurses and allied health professionals to discuss optimal assessment and management of common medical conditions, including when and where to refer patients.

The result is a single, web-based portal for relevant and evidence-based information that is designed to be accessed by general practice at the point of care.

HealthPathways promotes consistency of care and best use of resources by

assisting clinicians and patients to navigate the healthcare system with greater ease.

The HealthPathways portal presents a synopsis of current evidence and clinical guidelines, along with information about local referral options for a range of specific conditions in the one, easy to use place. HealthPathways does not replace clinical decision making, it supports it.

Each local health jurisdiction tailors the content of HealthPathways to reflect local arrangements and opinion, and deploys their own instance of HealthPathways to their clinical community.

Benefits of HealthPathways

International and Victorian health service experiences using HealthPathways have reported:

- ✓ Shorter patient waiting times for specialist assessment & treatment
- ✓ Shorter hospital stays and fewer re-admissions
- ✓ More capacity to deliver elective surgery
- ✓ More care being provided in the community instead of hospitals
- ✓ Older people being supported to stay independent at home

This enables general practice teams to regularly use evidence-based, clinically agreed, standardised pathways of care to improve the patient journey.

New pathways are constantly developed and existing pathways are peer reviewed to reflect changing clinical evidence, technological advances and the local health service system.

The HealthPathways portal assists GPs to refer only as required, specialists and hospital outpatient departments are better able to focus on patients most in need of their expertise.