

Advanced Practice Summary Report

Project title	Advanced practice Physiotherapist in neurosciences clinics.
Health service	Melbourne Health.
Project aim	Providing advanced practice physiotherapy in outpatient neuroscience clinics to improve patient outcomes and quality of life.
Key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented physiotherapy role in neurosciences clinics. Weekly attendance at neuro-oncology and stroke clinic, fortnightly attendance at neuromuscular clinic. Completing patient assessment, interventions and referrals as required. • Evaluated through VIRIAF. • Developed referral processes and checklists. • 126 patients seen over 4 month intervention period (extrapolated to 378 over 12 month period). • Specialist (neurosurgeon and neurologist) time saved on functional assessments and referrals – 23 hours freed up over 4 month period. Extrapolated to potential extra 69 hours of specialist time freed up for more critical tasks, or up to 138 more patients being seen by specialists per annum. • Improved patient outcomes and satisfaction with 100% of respondents reporting that the physiotherapy assessment in the clinic benefited them, with the most beneficial parts of the assessment reported as being education and advice (78%), referrals to ongoing therapy (67%) and talking to someone about their problems (44%). • Improved access to support and community therapy services: 45% patients seen were referred to physiotherapy in the community and 16% patients seen were referred to other Allied Health services in the community. • Established credentialing/competency pathway for clinic role in line with Allied Health: Credentialing, Scope of Practice, Competency and Capability Framework (DHHS, 2015).
Total investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided plus in-kind support: \$63,825 • Funding costs included: staffing costs (clinicians, project officer, operational costs (interpreters), equipment / capital (equipment and IT) • In-kind support costs included: One on one stakeholder discussions and meetings and development costs • 0.6 FTE – Grade 4 Physiotherapist
Resources available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroke outpatient clinic flow chart • Neuro-muscular outpatient clinic flow chart • Neuro-oncology outpatient clinic flow chart • Competency standard • Evidence planning and competency assessment document • Learning needs analysis: self-assessment • Patient survey • Staff survey