Nurse Practitioners in Regional Victoria

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Nurse Practitioner

We are not here to do palliative care
We are here to improve palliative care
Nurse Practitioners

- 1998 Taskforce
- Pilots
- Service plans
- First NP endorsement – 2002
Approach and Implementation

- Understanding local demand and opportunities
- Shaping the service model for NP's
- Priming the organisations for NP's
- Preparing the nursing workforce
Roles and aims of NP implementation

• Advanced clinical nursing assessment
• End of life care in the community and inpatient settings
• Increased access to palliative care expertise
• Identified career pathway for nurses
• Career structure with retention of nursing in regional areas
• Increased engagement in the region
Palliative Care Services

Grampians Regional Palliative Care Team
2 Palliative care Physicians – 1.5 EFT       NP – 0.7 EFT
CNC  .8EFT

Community Services:
--Djerriwarrh Palliative Care       -Ballarat Hospice Care Inc
--Central Grampians Palliative Care  --Wimmera Hospice Care

Inpatient Palliative Care Beds:
• 2 - Djerriwarrh Health Service
• 9 - Gandarra, BHS
• 1 - East Grampians Health Service
• 1 - Wimmera Health Care Group
Pre implementation

• Expectation and satisfaction of palliative care health professional teams in the region
• Pre evaluation survey
  – What is a NP
  – What aspects of the NP Role were vital to their organisation
  – Domains that could improve patient outcomes
  – Limitations or positive that a NP role would bring
  – Skill development and qualities a NP could offer their teams

• 20 surveys were sent out - 98% return rate
General Themes Pre Evaluation

• A NP is an advanced practice nurse
• Specialist consultation of patients
• Leadership and peer consultation
• Improve patient outcomes
• Skill development and advanced practice
• Limitations
  – Destabilize existing teams
Key Performance Indicators

• Increase consumer choice for place of death
• 75% of consumers would like to die at home
• 2009 data - 10% home death rate in Grampians Region
• State average - less than 25%
Non Clinical Time

- Education and training
- Regional Representative
- State wide Representative
- Clinical Mentoring
- Organisational responsibilities
First Consults by GRPCT
2011-2012

NP (0.7EFT)
Registrar (0.5EFT)
Physicians (1.5 EFT)
CNC (0.8 EFT)
Unidentified
NP - Deaths
2011-2012

- Home
- Acute Services
- Gandarra
- Palliative Care Bed
- Total
Post Evaluations

Clearer understanding of NP role

Benefits:

- Nursing perspective on patient management and assessments
- Readily available
- Order diagnostics, pathology and write scripts
- Enhanced patient care in the home setting
- Team support
- Improved liaison
- Clinical advice
- Thorough assessment without having to send a patient to emergency department
Post Evaluations

Limitations

• Lack of hours
• Only visits once a month

"The role has had an immediate positive effect on patient care delivery and measurable outcomes to help support people to die at home if they wish"
Current review of Nurse Practitioner role

• Survey of all health care providers in the Grampians region

• Extension of outpatient clinics in Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre

• Organisational acceptance of the value of NP roles
Conclusion

- Acceptance
- Advanced practice
- Education and Mentoring
- Regional Challenges
- Future directions
Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson