

Monash Minute

Connecting with primary care

October 2017

October 2017 update from Monash Health GP Liaison

Please forward this newsletter onto GPs in your practice or email us at GPLiaison@monashhealth.org to subscribe to this newsletter.

New Supportive Chronic Conditions Clinic

Researching the anticipated benefits of the clinic

The Supportive Chronic Conditions Clinic is a new and innovative multidisciplinary clinic aimed at assisting patients with end-stage chronic diseases. It also aims to improve the continuity of care between our hospitals, general practices and the community.

We assist patients with

- symptom management
- comprehensive social needs assessments and
- introduction to Advance Care Planning whilst clarifying medical goals of care.

Services are supported by nurse practitioners and social workers and include:

- Nephrology
- Heart failure and
- Palliative care

Monash Health is concurrently conducting research into the anticipated beneficial impact of the clinic on symptoms, wellbeing, and patient and carer quality-of-life under the guidance of Associate Professor Peter Poon (Head of Supportive and Palliative Care).

For further information regarding the clinic or research:

E: supportivechronicconditionsclinic@monashhealth.org

Improving access to Specialist Consulting services

Wanted: GP representatives to partner with Monash Health

Are you passionate about improving access for your patients? Do you want to help transform how we deliver Specialist Consulting services to our growing community?

Monash Health is embarking on a long term initiative to improve Specialist Consulting services for our consumers and referrers. This project aims to establish systems and processes that underpin the delivery of timely, high quality, patient-centred care. We recognise that primary practitioners are a crucial part of this system and we need your input to ensure that coordinated care is designed and delivered successfully.



SUPPORTING CHRONIC
CONDITIONS CLINIC

New
multidisciplinary
clinic



JOIN THE
SPECIALIST
CONSULTING
PROJECT TEAM

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Partner with us on the Specialist Consulting project team and work with clinical and non-clinical staff from across Monash Health to develop strategies which will improve our Specialist Consulting services for your patients.

We plan to start meeting in October and welcome your involvement. Please contact us to begin a discussion about how we can work together.

To get involved and for more information:

E: yalini.vijeyakumar@monashhealth.org

Standardised Medication Lists

Full medication lists provided to Monash Health patients

Did you know that all Monash Health patients receive a full medication list upon discharge, if there are changes to any of their regular medicines?

What is included?

The standardised medication list includes fields for

- allergies and adverse drug reactions
- medications ceased or withheld during admission
- indications for a majority of medications
- separate lists for medications indicated for *regular* use and for *when required* use
- quantity supplied on discharge documented on medication list
- notes section for communication points with the patient's local primary care provider.

How do I get a copy of the list?

In the first instance, please request a copy of the list from your patient. If they are unable to provide it to you, GPs can contact the pharmacy department at the relevant site. Contact details are on the [Monash Health Pharmacy website](#).

For further information about the medication list, call the relevant pharmacy department using the number provided on the medication list.

Penicillin de-labelling service

Rapid penicillin de-labelling service for general medicine patients with low allergy risk

Monash Medical Centre Clayton proudly offers penicillin allergy rapid de-labelling to confirm genuine penicillin allergies in general medicine patients who are assessed as having a low risk of penicillin allergy with the following features:

- distant, non-specific history
- history of childhood rash

Improving access
to specialist
consulting
services



STANDARDISED
MEDICATION LIST

Pharmacy
Department

Click here to view
a working example
of a medication list



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- penicillin avoidance due to family member allergy
- negative skin prick or intradermal testing.

Consenting patients receive amoxicillin 250mg stat with frequent monitoring. If no reaction occurs, patients continue amoxicillin 250mg TDS for 3 days with a follow up phone call from the asthma and allergy nurse.

If testing confirms a penicillin allergy, it is recorded in the patient's Monash Health electronic medical record. The patient will be provided with an Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) alert card with details of the reaction. Non-allergic patients are informed that it is safe to receive future treatment with penicillin antibiotics. GPs will be advised of their patient's de-labelling results.

For more information or to refer a patient with suspected allergies, contact the Monash Health Allergy Department:

T: 9594 6312

E: allergy@monashhealth.org

PENICILLIN
DE-LABELLING
SERVICE

Allergy
Department

Physical health screening in mental health

New physical health screen and cardiometabolic monitoring tool for mental health patients COMING END 2017

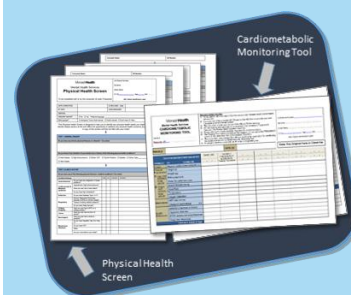
The life expectancy of people with a mental illness is reduced by 15-20 years, largely due to cardiovascular disease. Monash Health's Mental Health Program (MHMHP) want to work with GPs to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates of their patients. To do this, all Monash Health Community patients will be screened using a new physical health screen and cardiometabolic monitoring tool to identify physical health issues early.

To help GPs improve their patients' care pathways, copies of completed forms will be sent to patients' GPs either by fax, email or post, depending on your normal preferred method.

For more information contact Pam Maroney, Physical Health in Mental Health Project Officer:

P: 8572 4888

E: pam.maroney@monashhealth.org



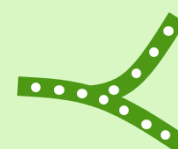
PHYSICAL HEALTH
SCREENING IN MENTAL
HEALTH

Mental Health
Program

Specialist endovenous service to treat varicose veins

Ambulatory minimally invasive laser therapy service for symptomatic varicose veins of the lower limbs

Monash Health has developed a new service to support GPs managing venous disease that is causing skin changes (including ulceration) and lower limb swelling. This innovative new service enables most symptomatic varicose veins to be treated with a walk-in-walk-out ultrasound guided laser ablation of truncal



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varices as a minimally invasive alternative to varicose vein surgery. Vascular, radiological and surgical specialist staff deliver this service at Monash Health's vascular sciences facility at Dandenong Hospital.

The procedure:

The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia through a tiny puncture in the skin. Class 2 compression hosiery is provided and fitted on completion of the therapy. Patients may return to normal duties the next day and are encouraged to remain mobile at all times following the procedure. A visit to the dedicated endovenous clinic prior to the therapy and a post procedure visit is required after eight weeks.

Our specialist venous clinic also offers:

- surgical options for venous disease unsuitable for laser therapy
- sclerotherapy as an alternative minimally invasive treatment option or as an adjunct to laser therapy and
- advice on conservative measures for managing venous incompetence including specialised hosiery.

Clinical assessments are performed by a specialist vascular practitioner on referral from the patient's own GP.

For further information or to refer, please visit the [Monash Health Vascular Surgery webpage here.](#)

Victims/survivors of sexual assault and family violence

Community Health Nurses provide client-centred care

Community Health Nurses (CHNs) provide client centred care to victims/survivors of sexual assault and family violence. They are collocated in Multidisciplinary Centres (MDCs) with other professionals and provide:

- free and confidential health support to women, men and children (and non-offending family members) who have experienced family violence or sexual assault
- supported access to primary and allied health services such as: doctors, dentists mental health, sexual health, immunisation, physiotherapy, podiatry, dietetics, speech pathology, and exercise physiology
- health information, assisted referral and education for all health issues and
- education to MDC clients, service providers, community organisations and health care providers.

We also prioritise the development of formal links and networks with relevant local health services to enable continuity of quality health care for our clients.

For further information or referral contact:

Seaford

E: chnseafordmdc@monashhealth.org

T: [8770 1065](tel:87701065)

MINIMALLY INVASIVE
LASER THERAPY FOR
VARICOSE VEINS

Specialist
endovenous
service

Click here for more
information about
Monash Health's
Vascular Surgery



VICTIMS / SURVIVORS
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Multidisciplinary
Centres

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Dandenong:

E: chndandenongmdc@monashhealth.org

T: [8769 2238](tel:87692238)

Education events

Radiation oncology and the Primary Care Provider

Join us for an information session to enhance primary care provider's knowledge about radiation therapy. Attendees will get a chance to familiarise themselves with our services and facilities, particularly the new state of the art IntraOperative Radiation Therapy unit. During the evening we will debunk misconceptions around radiation therapy and ensure attendees understand:

- how and when to get in touch with the local team for opinions and advice, and
- how to make referrals.

[Click here to access the flyer.](#)

For further information contact Daisy Lecerf:

E: daisy.lecerf@petermac.org

P: 9928 8990

Date: Wednesday 1 November
Time: 6.00 – 9.00pm
Location: Peter Mac Radiotherapy Department
Monash Cancer Centre
823-865 Centre Road,
Bentleigh East

Click for the flyer and registration

We are interested in your feedback on how we can provide the most useful information in the Monash Minute newsletter. Please email your comments or feedback to GPLiaison@monashhealth.org

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