

# Health Networks

# COVID-19 Response Report

In collaboration with our partners from across the WA health system Health Networks have worked to Connect, Share and Improve as part of a range of activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



6

WA Goals of Patient Care train the trainer webinar workshops held.<sup>1a</sup>

250+

Members in the Goals of Care Community of Practice.<sup>1a</sup>

12,000

Hits on the "Goals of Care in the COVID-19 environment" WA Department of Health landing page in the first two weeks.<sup>1a</sup>



8

Clinical Guidelines developed and placed on DoH landing webpages.<sup>1b, 2a</sup>

6

Factsheets and Information Sheets developed.<sup>2a, 2b, 2c</sup>

3

Staff members seconded to the State Health Incident Control Centre and Public Health Emergency Operation Centre.<sup>3</sup>



97

Responses to the COVID-19 Cancer Patient Experience Survey.<sup>4</sup>

200

Requests for HealthPathways login details for the month coinciding with the launch of the COVID-19 Pathways.<sup>5</sup>

35

People and Organisations mentioned in the attached notes pages which provides further detail on the activities outlined above.



# HEALTH NETWORKS

## COVID-19 Response Report Notes

### January to June 2020



- 1) The End of Life Care Program Team together with the End of Life and Palliative Care Clinical Leads, Dr Simon Towler and Dr Alison Parr; the WACHS Palliative Care Director, Dr Kirsten Auret and the WACPN-CIU Palliative Care Nurse Educator, Valerie Colgan, worked together to enable quick and streamlined clinical input into end of life and palliative care needs in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic.

During the time of active COVID-19 cases the WA Goals of Patient Care (GoPC) process was prioritised as an important way of establishing the most medically appropriate, realistic, agreed goal of patient care that would apply in the event of clinical deterioration, during an episode of care.

#### 1a) In response to clinician need:

GoPC train-the-trainer workshops were held to provide an opportunity for collective thinking and sharing to improve clinical training during COVID-19 management.

- **Six training webinars were held**, with 297 ports active across the six sessions. It is uncertain how many clinicians were grouped at each port.
- Training webinars were conducted and recorded by Dr Simon Towler, Jeff Ewan, Valerie Colgan and other WA Clinical Champions and are available for viewing. [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F\\_1/Goals-of-Care-and-End-of-life-in-the-COVID19-environment](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_1/Goals-of-Care-and-End-of-life-in-the-COVID19-environment).
- Cancer Council WA's Palliative and Supportive Care Education (PaSCE) program was engaged to develop several GoPC training videos for WA Health.
- A Goals of Care Community of Practice was formed to reach out to the broader clinical community, provide clinical support and resources. **Membership is 250 and growing.**
- GoPC Non-BOSSnet e-form has had a rapid build and testing phase via HSS. This e-form will be made available to all WA Health Non-BOSSnet sites.
- A Goals of Care in the COVID-19 environment WA DOH landing page [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F\\_1/Goals-of-Care-and-End-of-life-in-the-COVID19-environment](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_1/Goals-of-Care-and-End-of-life-in-the-COVID19-environment) was developed and **received 12,000 hits in the first 2 weeks.**

#### 1b) End of Life and Palliative Care Resources in the COVID-19 environment:

- In response to requests from GoPC Clinical Champions standard WA Clinical Guidelines for end of life and palliative care were developed
- An End of Life and Palliative Care Editorial Group was established.
- **Six Clinical Guidelines** were developed and placed on DoH landing webpages.
- The WA guidelines have been cited in CareSearch <https://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/5973/Default.aspx> a key palliative care knowledge network and principle Australian palliative care clearing house. These were the only state-based guidelines cited in CareSearch for Hospital Health Professional use.
- As West Australian and Australian clinical requirements for information and resources become clearer over time the web pages will be updated and rationalised.

- 2) The Health Networks have been represented in multiple workstreams as part of the Department of Health's COVID-19 response. Each workstream has been identifying risks and issues for specific areas as well as developing resources addressing these concerns, including clinical guidelines and factsheets which are outlined in detail below and can be accessed at: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-health-professionals](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-health-professionals) and [https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/Patients-and-carers](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/Patients-and-carers)

**2a)** The Women and Newborn Health Network have been represented as part of the COVID-19 Maternity Working Group and the COVID-19 Neonatal Working Group. These groups have developed **two clinical guidelines**, [Management of COVID-19 infection in pregnant women](#) and [Clinical guidelines for neonatal services](#). As well as three patient **information sheets**, [COVID-19 in pregnancy](#), [COVID-19 women in labour \(suspected or confirmed\)](#), and [COVID-19 and breastfeeding](#).

**2b)** The Disability Health Network (DHN) has contributed to the development of resources that are important in ensuring the needs of people with disability are well met during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. The DHN convened two online workshops with key Government and Disability organisations to seek input into the development and review of documents on 9 and 22 April. [The Caring for People with Disability factsheet](#) was developed by the DHN as a checklist of considerations for health workers when working with people with disability.

**2c)** The Cancer Team facilitated the COVID-19 Oncology Working Group as part of the State response to COVID-19. Between 26 March and 28 May 2020, the Working Group met 7 times and reviewed work on 3 occasions out of session.

The COVID-19 Oncology Working Group consulted with 18 people from across the system regarding risks and issues specific to COVID-19 and Aboriginal people with; cancer, haematology, medical oncology, nursing, palliative care, pathology, radiation oncology, cancer screening, surgery and survivorship.

Three online resources were developed and published to support the state response to COVID-19. The resources included the following:

- [COVID-19 and cancer factsheet](#), to guide people affected by cancer with their cancer treatment during COVID-19
- Travelling for medical treatment **factsheet**, to assist patients needing to travel through regional boundaries during COVID-19
- COVID-19 cancer services response position paper, to guide health professionals during COVID-19

The Cancer Team also facilitated 4 meetings with Oncology representatives from each Health Service Provider from 15 April to 27 May 2020.

**2d)** Diabetes and Endocrine Network was represented as part of the Endocrinology COVID-19 working group. This group is working with representatives from Health Service Providers and peak bodies to develop information sheets for patients with diabetes and other endocrine conditions. A media campaign raising awareness on the signs and symptoms of type 1 diabetes was also developed.

**2e)** Child and Youth Network have been represented as part of the COVID-19 Paediatric Working Group. Two video resources warning parent not to delay hospital trips to Perth Children's Hospital ED or Joondalup Health Campus have been developed.

**2f)** End of Life and Palliative Care staff provided representation in multiple workstreams particularly those related to Care of the Older Person and Primary Care and Community Health.

- 3) **Three staff members were seconded to the State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC) and Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC)** to support the COVID-19 response in areas including Planning, Health and Well-being of those in Quarantine and supporting the Contact Tracing unit.
- 4) The COVID-19 Cancer Patient Experience Survey was conducted to gain an understanding of how COVID-19 may have impacted the experience of patients across the cancer care pathway, from diagnosis to treatment, survivorship and end of life. The survey closed on 8 June 2020. **97 people affected by cancer responded to the survey.** The survey infographic can be accessed through the Health Networks Bulletin:  
<https://mailchi.mp/health.wa.gov.au/wa-health-networks-bulletin-18-june-1368822>

#### *Cancer staging data project*

The cancer team have also been working collaboratively across WA Health to plan a project to collect cancer staging data and look at the impact the COVID-19 response may have had. This project is a collaboration between BreastScreen WA, WA Cancer Registry, the Department's Epidemiology Branch, Data Management team and Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Directorate.

- 5) COVID-19 pathways, which were approved by PHEOC, have proved very popular with GPs and have led to uplift in other pathway traffic, particularly those which relate to COVID-19. As from launch of the first COVID-19 pathways (3 April) to 30 April, there were **200 new requests for login details**, 68% of which came from GPs.

Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, people still found time to provide input to the HealthPathways Consultation. Seven Newly Localised Pathways were opened for consultation to obtain clinical input for HealthPathways along with 10 Pathways recently reviewed with notable changes.

The WA health system in partnership with the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) ensures pathways are developed and customised for WA, with the key focus on improving integration between primary, secondary, and tertiary care. Health Networks continues to facilitate the consultation process for the newly developed and reviewed pathways. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many clinicians who give their time and expertise to improve integration between primary, secondary and tertiary care and provide feedback to ensure the integrity of the pathway process.

In this reporting period, input and feedback were sought from clinicians via online consultation in March-April 2020 for the following pathways:

<b><u>Newly Localised</u></b>	<b><u>Subsequent review</u></b>
<b>Child and Youth Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosing Diabetes in Children and Adolescents</li> </ul> <b>Orthopaedics - Child</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH)</li> <li>Wrist Fractures in Children</li> </ul> <b>Older Adults' Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before Entering a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF)</li> <li>Unexpected Deterioration in an Older Person</li> </ul> <b>Gastroenterology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverticulitis</li> </ul> <b>Mental Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carer Stress</li> </ul>	<p>The following pathways have been recently reviewed with notable changes:</p> <b>Cardiology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palpitations</li> </ul> <b>Child and Youth Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Health in Youth</li> </ul> <b>Sexual Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlamydia</li> <li>Sexual Health Risk Assessment</li> <li>Gonorrhoea</li> <li>Contact Tracing</li> <li>Syphilis</li> </ul> <b>Mental Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suicide Risk in Adults</li> <li>Anxiety in Adults</li> <li>Medications for Moderate or Severe Anxiety in Adults</li> </ul>