Request for Expressions of Interest

Sessional GP Pharmacotherapy Clinic
Peninsula Health Community Health
INTRODUCTION

We are seeking expressions of interest from General Practitioners to provide a sessional pharmacotherapy service at a clinic within Rosebud Community Health.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

A joint initiative between Peninsula Health Community Health, Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network (South East Melbourne Primary Health Network) and the Responding to Alcohol and other Drugs in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula (RAD-FMP) project has proposed a 12-month demonstration project which aims to increase the number of GPs prescribing Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) across the Frankston Mornington Peninsula (FMP) catchment.

This is in response to the findings of the RAD-FMP Project situation assessment, which found that there is a lack of OST prescribers in the FMP catchment, resulting in poor access to OST in areas of the region and a concentration of pharmacotherapy services in Frankston.

This demonstration project will run for 12 months and will be evaluated to assess its effectiveness.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Peninsula Health Community Health Service wishes to facilitate a sessional GP clinic that would provide pharmacotherapy and general practice medicine and chronic disease management to our vulnerable populations.

This clinic would operate 2-3 times a week, utilising external GPs who express an interest in practising pharmacotherapy. Support for GPs would be provided by the Peninsula Health Addiction Medicine Specialist and the newly created Pharmacotherapy Support Nurse, formed as part of the demonstration project. Clinical support will also be made available via two GP mentors who are highly experienced in the field of OST. The Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network will also provide GP Small Group Learnings will be AOD and predominately based around case presentations, discussion of clinical problems and best practice guidelines and will be facilitated by the local Addiction Medicine Specialist (AMS). These Small Group Learnings are worth 40 category 1 QI&CPD points if correctly documented activities are submitted to RACGP.

The rationale for establishing this service lies with the limited options for potential and current OST clients. At present, most OST prescribing GPs are clustered in the Frankston
CBD. The majority of OST clients are required to travel to the Frankston clinics for their treatment.

This clinic would allow choice for pharmacotherapy clients and potentially allow greater access for clients living in the southern end of the Peninsula. Recent figures from Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network reveal 179 open patient permits for OST in Rosebud and surrounds.

The Rosebud site offers suitable parking, access to public transport, and has appropriate reception and waiting room facilities. A clinic room will be available with key equipment and patient consumables.

It is co-located with a number of other Community Health programs. This includes Early intervention in Chronic Disease services (Dietetics, Diabetes Education, Exercise Physiology), Counselling, Dental and Children’s Services. Allied Health chronic disease services can provide a referral pathway for clients requiring Team Care Arrangements as part of their GP Chronic Disease Management Plan.

Additionally, the Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) Care Coordination service is also based at Rosebud Community Health. Eligible clients are provided with short term multi-disciplinary care coordination to assist with self-management strategies to ensure optimal health and well-being. These programs can be utilised to provide a comprehensive health service for clients and to allow professionals to liaise with a range of disciplines, providing a true teamwork environment.

The Community Health building lies behind the acute Rosebud hospital, which also operates an Emergency Department. The community mental health service is located on-site. Nearby are local pharmacies who have demonstrated a commitment to the ongoing dispensing of OST medications.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the sessional clinic operate 2-3 times a week for 3.5 hour sessions (this can be distributed between a small number of GPs). The GPs will be working in their own private practice, however, will receive mentorship by two external GP mentors who are highly experienced in OST. Secondary consultations will also be available from the Peninsula Health Addiction Medicine Specialist, operating as part of the broader Alcohol and Other Drugs stream. Services within this stream include Frankston and Mornington Drug and Alcohol Service (FaMDAS), offering non-residential withdrawal, AOD counselling and care coordination.

A Pharmacotherapy Support Nurse (PSN) is funded by the 12-month project and will work closely with GPs to engage interested clients, provide comprehensive health and social assessments and contribute to GP Management Plans. The PSN will be a resource for both sessional GPs and clients, especially relating to psycho-social needs. The PSN will provide valuable support for clients through referrals to appropriate services (e.g. housing, financial, family violence support services). This collaboration with the PSN and mentorship through the Addiction Medicine Specialist creates a team-based approach to care.
In addition to pharmacotherapy, GPs can also provide General Practice appointments to vulnerable clients, with a view of improving access, quality and integrated services for this at-risk group. Research shows that an average of five patients per business day could be seen by a GP instead of at the Rosebud Emergency Department.

Consulting rooms will be provided at no cost to the sessional GPs, with administrative support for client appointment bookings and reception. GPs will be responsible for their own MBS billing and claim management processes.

Sessional GPs will be offered a honourary contract with Peninsula Health, allowing them to treat patients within PH facilities. GPs will not be on a salary from Peninsula Health and will raise and retain 100% of their own revenue via MBS rebates. The details of this arrangement and contract will be reviewed after 12 months (completion of the project timeframe).

Record management can be conducted on GP’s own usual IT program, which can be accessed via bringing your own device and connecting to Peninsula Health wifi network. An additional IT program (Whiteboard which is compatible with Medical Director 3 and Best Practice) will be implemented to enable communication using secure instant messaging and viewing of core client records between health professionals. This information sharing program is free for GP’s and can also be available in the GPs own clinic. It facilitates timely communication, referrals and access to key patient information from mental health, AOD, pharmacy other community health professionals.

Overview of Peninsula Health

Peninsula Health is committed to providing high-quality healthcare services that are integrated, easily accessible, caring, and person and family centred to the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula communities. The role of employees in achieving this is recognised through attention to workplace culture, environment and capacity building.

Peninsula Health believes in the strength of a diverse and inclusive workforce where each person’s uniqueness is valued. Peninsula Health believes that by embracing the diverse life experiences and perspectives of our people, we will provide high-quality healthcare to all members of our community – regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, religion or sexual orientation.

Our mission statement ‘Building a Healthy Community, in Partnership,’ is the basis on which we strive to provide a range of acute, sub-acute, mental health, residential and community-based services from 12 sites.

Our Values

The values of Peninsula Health underpin everything we do. On a daily basis, we want our employees and volunteers to demonstrate these values through their actions.

**Service:** We serve our diverse community by providing accessible, responsive and personalised care

**Integrity:** We are open, honest, just, reasonable and ethical in our relationships
Compassion: We understand the needs of those we serve and respond with care

Respect: We champion the rights of individuals to be in control of their lives and to be treated as equals

Excellence: We hold ourselves accountable for achieving the best health outcomes for individuals and our community

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Expressions of Interest applications should be sent electronically to: rblight@phcn.vic.gov.au by COB Friday November 4, 2016.
Applications received after this closing time will not be eligible for consideration.

Applicants are to provide a detailed Curriculum Vitae that includes education (including post graduate qualifications), current and past employment/relevant experience, publications, current research projects and the names of two referees.

Eligible applicants will be required to undergo the Peninsula Health credentialing process for the appointment of Senior Medical staff as outlined in the PH policy "Credentialing, Defining Scope of Practice and Appointment of Senior Medical and Dental Staff". This includes review of applications by Executive Director of Medical Services and relevant Clinical Director, with recommendations made to the Senior Medical and Dental Staff Credentialing Appointments Committee.
During the credentialing process, we will require proof of professional registration, proof of professional indemnity cover and level of cover, proof of Specialist College Fellowship and evidence of college CPD compliance and a Police Check.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

We are seeking interest from GPs who show a commitment to OST provision, in addition to chronic disease management and General Practice medicine, with a focus on our vulnerable populations.

They need to be willing to attend educational and professional development sessions provided and engage with the Addiction Medicine Specialist and pharmacotherapy GP mentor.

The Practitioner will be required to participate in evaluation of the Pharmacotherapy Demonstration Project by providing feedback via participation in surveys or focus groups, and the provision of de-identified data that can be readily captured/extracted from systems used by the GP.

It is preferable if the applicant has completed, or is willing to complete, RACGP accredited Mental Health skills training.

Show a desire to build strong working relationships with the Pharmacotherapy Support Nurse, Community Health programs and staff.

Have a demonstrated ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds and a non-judgemental attitude towards illicit drug use.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sessional GP Pharmacotherapy Clinic at Peninsula Health Community Health Service

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Please attach current Curriculum Vitae as outlined in above ‘Submission Requirements’.

**Strategic Fit and Linkages**

Please explain how your practice will contribute to the Community Health vision and work in partnership with the model: