

Fact Sheet

Oral Health



The Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) Oral Health Service will continue to provide general, specialist and emergency dental services to children and eligible adults.

Eligible WSLHD residents will have access to the full range of oral health services through the following networking arrangements:

The **Westmead Centre for Oral Health (WCOH)** at Westmead Hospital will continue as the major centre for the District, supporting networked services and leading and defining the delivery of public oral health services within NSW, nationally and in the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre will:

- ▶ Provide outpatient services to all eligible children and adults
- ▶ Support Westmead Hospital's tertiary/quaternary role
- ▶ Provide a statewide role in supporting specialist service delivery and training of undergraduate and postgraduate dental students of the University of Sydney
- ▶ Provide the only 24 hour emergency on-call dental service in NSW
- ▶ Provide outreach services to rural NSW Local Health Districts for general and specialist services

- ▶ Continue to be closely networked with The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW). Where possible, oral health services for paediatric inpatients will be delivered at the CHW.

Dental clinics at **Blacktown Hospital** and **Mount Druitt Hospital** will continue to be networked with the Westmead Centre for Oral Health and will provide an expanded outpatient service for children and eligible adults, and support inpatients with acute dental needs. Further planning is required for the new Rouse Hill health facility.

Recommendations for oral health services:

- ▶ Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the community, general practitioners and other primary health care providers, private services, NSW Health agencies and other government and non-government agencies, and support implementation of the Patient Centred Medical Home model
www.wentwest.com.au/phn/programs/pcmh
- ▶ Involve consumers and the community in the planning, delivery and evaluation of oral health services

Oral Health continued

- ▶ Contribute to creating an environment where community members and consumers are involved in health promotion and self-management, including initiatives to improve health literacy
- ▶ Continue to focus on services for priority populations and high risk groups
- ▶ In association with other local, state and national partners, target oral health screening and assessment, preventive treatment and education to high risk groups
- ▶ Increase capacity to provide hospital inpatient dental care in line with projected demand
- ▶ Maintain support for the fluoridation of water supplies at optimum levels for the prevention of dental caries
- ▶ Continue and expand involvement in Homeless Connect events and dedicated Homeless and At Risk Youth Oral Health clinics
- ▶ Develop a WSLHD Oral Health clinical services plan including:
 - Progress planning for statewide clinical services provided by WCOH for special needs and medically complex patients, with appropriate general dentistry support to provide specialist services
 - Increase capacity to provide hospital inpatient dental care aligned with projected demand
- ▶ Develop the Oral Health virtual health model to be incorporated into the WSLHD virtual health strategy and expand tele-dentistry
- ▶ Expand participation in multidisciplinary team management of patients with head and neck cancer and haematological and immunological conditions
- ▶ Strengthen capacity to manage patients with complex and chronic medical conditions
- ▶ Explore alternative models of care for special needs dental patients (including inpatient stays)
- ▶ Explore opportunities to develop an oral health clinic within the proposed Westmead Aged Care Comprehensive Care Centre
- ▶ Continue to provide general and specialist outreach services to residential aged care facilities
- ▶ Expand and redevelop the WCOH as part of Westmead Precinct redevelopments, subject to funding
- ▶ Expand and redevelop the Blacktown dental clinic, and expand the Mount Druitt dental clinic, subject to funding
- ▶ Progress new technologies including optical scanning, digital imaging and design to allow for improved diagnostic and clinical outcomes
- ▶ Enhance research and development including stem cell research, genetic based diagnosis and precision medicine
- ▶ Increase the focus on bioengineering and robotics.