

Fact Sheet

Medicine Specialties



Medicine specialties will be provided by general and specialist teams in hospital and community settings. The scope and complexity of specialist services at each site will align with the resources and support services available to ensure safe and efficient care.

People living in WSLHD will have access to the full range of medicine services through networking arrangements:

- ▶ **Blacktown and Westmead** hospitals will provide specialist diagnostic and treatment services for patients who need complex care
- ▶ **Westmead Hospital** will also provide subspecialty tertiary and quaternary services for patients with the most complex health care needs, including some statewide roles
- ▶ **Blacktown and Westmead** hospitals will support **Mount Druitt** and **Auburn** hospitals respectively through onsite or virtual health consultations for specialist services
- ▶ Networking with **St Joseph's Hospital** will continue for rehabilitation and palliative care services
- ▶ Services will be provided in home and community settings, and in partnership with non-government organisations
- ▶ Services at the proposed **Rouse Hill** health facility are

subject to further planning.

Presentations to the Emergency Department will be avoided wherever possible. Rapid assessment options will enable early specialist assessment of acute medical conditions.

Referral pathways will be promoted to general practice and other health professionals.

Models of care for specialist outreach services in community settings will evolve to provide care closer to where people live, when appropriate. Streamlined care of patients as they transition to different care settings will be emphasised.

Recommendations for medicine specialties:

- ▶ Involve the community, consumers and carers in the planning, design and evaluation of services
- ▶ Collaborate with WSLHD community health services and external partners to embed sustainable improvements in the transfer of care between community and hospital care, and minimise potentially preventable hospital admissions
- ▶ Work with Western Sydney Primary Health Network to improve access to skilled and experienced primary care providers (in and after hours), and increase the information about specialist services that is available on the HealthPathways Western Sydney portal

Medicine Specialties continued

- ▶ Work more closely with general practitioners to support implementation of the Patient Centred Medical Home model www.wentwest.com.au/phn/programs/pcm
 - ▶ Promote opportunities to engage community members and consumers in health promotion and self-management activities and improve their health literacy
 - ▶ Enhance how medicine services are delivered to improve patient care experiences and outcomes:
 - Strengthen networking arrangements within and between WSLHD hospitals for specialty services
 - Progress development of comprehensive care centre models for Westmead Hospital and Blacktown hospitals
 - Explore and expand hospital based outpatient, day stay and short stay models including day stay models for the proposed Westmead Precinct medihotel
 - Explore nurse-led models for components of some specialties
 - Expand acute and sub-acute care models that provide care closer to where people live, including outreach services
 - Implement NSW Health system-wide service improvement initiatives including Leading Better Value Care and Whole of Health Program
 - Develop virtual health models to support networking and self-management
 - Develop and implement a tumour programs approach for cancer care
 - Further develop and implement the pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) model of care for WSLHD
- including relocation of the chest clinic onto the Westmead Precinct
- Expand shared care with general practitioners for patients with hepatitis and HIV
 - Increase the number of people with complex, long term conditions who are supported through integrated care programs
 - Expand capacity to manage frail, older people in the community and in outpatient settings
 - Expand the availability of Aboriginal-identified staff in services with larger numbers of Aboriginal people
 - Expand capacity for managing patients with acute drug health conditions at Westmead and Blacktown hospitals
 - Explore development of an inpatient (overnight) sleep medicine service at Blacktown Hospital
 - Explore potential expansion of the regional network for kidney and pancreas transplants
- ▶ Create innovative and adaptable health care environments including more spaces for outpatient clinics and day procedures at Westmead and Blacktown hospitals, and explore potential development of a palliative care hub at Mount Druitt Hospital
 - ▶ Harness new technologies and research to advance regional, state and national roles in providing complex tertiary and quaternary services and the rapid translation of precision medicine developments.