

Pilot to Develop a Model for a Nurse Practitioner within Assessment Treatment & Rehabilitation Services for Older Adults

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Project Purpose/Goal

To pilot a model of care within
Assessment Treatment &
Rehabilitation Services for Older Adults
that incorporates an advanced practice nurse
(Nurse Practitioner / Nurse Practitioner Intern)
as a member of the medical team.

Project Background & Description

- Work force capacity issues
- Historic medical model of care in AT&R
- Advanced nursing practice

Design

- Participatory action research
(Deshier & Ewart, 1985)
- Democratic process with contributions from stakeholders
 - Discuss issues as they arise
 - Action learning project – log kept by NP intern and minutes kept of meetings

Objectives

- Trial the addition of a Nurse Practitioner Intern to the traditional model
- Opportunity for a Nurse Practitioner Intern to complete a prescribing practicum
- Increase team stability & minimise impact of junior medical staff rotations & shortages on patient care

Risks

- The Advanced Practice Nurse may lack the skills to safely perform the role
- Length of Orientation
- Perception & understanding of role by others
- Lack of experience in core skills e.g. some physical exam techniques, prescribing, etc.

Outcomes

- ④ Impact of role in supporting medical team & reducing dependency on House Officers
- ④ Staff satisfaction with role & model of care
- ④ Positive unanticipated outcomes
- ④ Negative unanticipated outcomes

Conclusions

- ④ A Nurse Practitioner / Nurse Practitioner Intern has many skills that are easily transferable to the role of house officer
- ④ Existing roles can be developed, new roles designed & tasks reassigned to other professional groups
- ④ Communication with all stakeholders both internal and external is crucial

Recommendations

- ④ Identification of role for Nurse Practitioners
- ④ New medical team model that potentially reduces dependency on junior medical staff
- ④ That learning from the pilot be shared with others