

Promoting advanced nursing practice to optimise the management of complex, chronic disease patients

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Objective: This presentation will show case the role advanced nursing practice plays in the provision of holistic care to the most complex and vulnerable patients, who are often disenfranchised and frequently present to emergency departments.

The Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) at Eastern Health in Victoria has nurses working in the advanced practice roles of Nurse Practitioner Palliative Care and Credentialed Mental Health Nurse, who provide primary and secondary consultation to the multidisciplinary team; inclusive of assessment, management and on-going review of patients who have multiple comorbidities that include; physical, emotional, and social issues.

This presentation will demonstrate the effectiveness of these nurses in the provision of patient centred care across the continuum in reducing unplanned hospital presentations, which is not only cost effective for the health service but improves patient outcomes.

Method: The use of HARP VINAH data in conjunction with case examples will demonstrate the role advanced practice nurses play in the reduction of unplanned hospital admissions. The number and nature of nursing interventions pre and post admission to the HARP program will be measured and described.

Results: Results demonstrate a consistent and sustained reduction of bed days, emergency department presentations and cost savings.

Conclusion: Patient centred care in HARP is strengthened and enhanced by the contribution of these advanced practice nurses within the multidisciplinary team.

The future of the advanced nursing role lies in filling the gap rather than replacing current established health care roles.