

Thursday, 10 December 2015

Report reveals hotspots for potentially preventable hospitalisation

The release today of a national report into potentially preventable hospitalisations will help Brisbane North PHN to plan healthcare services that match the needs of local communities.

The updated data presented in the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) report will, for the first time, breakdown results by Primary Health Network regions and also by smaller statistical areas known as SA3s.

Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Abbe Anderson said the SA3 level data would be extremely helpful to the PHN in meeting its health planning objectives.

“We identified potentially preventable hospitalisations as a key theme in our first Health Needs Assessment, which has been released for community consultation,” Ms Anderson said.

“Our role is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local medical services, particularly for patients at risk of poor health outcomes in our community, and also to improve the coordination of care,” she said.

“The PHN already coordinates several programs for patients with chronic or complex conditions to help them to better manage their health at home and avoid the types of complications that would send them back to hospital.

“We have also partnered with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service to publish comprehensive, clinical pathways on a wide range of medical conditions, which health professionals can access at the point of care.

“From a preliminary reading of the NHPA report it would appear that for some conditions, there is considerable variation in the hospitalisation rates across our region.

“In particular, the report shows higher rates of hospitalisation from heart conditions among certain populations living in Chermside and Caboolture.

“We will look closely at the NHPA report and incorporate its findings into our Health Needs Assessment, where appropriate,” Ms Anderson said.

The NHPA report looks at the number and population rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations (chronic, acute and vaccine-preventable) at public and private hospitals in 2013-14.

ENDS

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Editor's note:

To read *Healthy Communities: Potentially preventable hospitalisations in 2013–14*, go to: <http://www.nhpa.gov.au/>.

About the Brisbane North PHN

Brisbane North PHN supports clinicians and communities in Brisbane's northern suburbs, Moreton Bay Regional Council and parts of Somerset Regional Council. It covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over 900,000.

The Federal Government announced the establishment of 31 Primary Health Networks to replace the national network of Medicare Locals in 2015. The Government selected successful PHNs through an open and competitive process, including the Brisbane North PHN.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes; and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

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