

Referrals

How to be referred:

We encourage people to be cared for by their general practitioner in conjunction with our experienced palliative care staff.

It is the policy of the Department of Palliative Care that a patient must be referred by a medical officer.

How health professionals can refer:

Your GP or medical specialist can make the necessary referral by faxing 4921 1952 or by posting a referral to the Department of Palliative Care, Calvary Mater Newcastle, Locked Bag 7, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

If the patient is in hospital, it is advisable to arrange a consultation prior to discharge so that the patient can be assessed in a timely manner. This is to ensure the continuity of palliative care for the patient and to make it easier for members of the health care team to communicate about all aspects of patient care. A referral form or letter is required from the referring doctor and can be made by phone, followed by a faxed or posted referral to the Palliative Care Service - Department of Palliative Care, Calvary Mater Newcastle, Locked Bag 7, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

T: (02) 4921 1958

F: (02) 4921 1952

If an individual other than a doctor wishes to refer a patient to the program, then he/she is requested to discuss the matter with the patient's doctor who then refers the patient.

The referral will then be forwarded to the appropriate service provider i.e Visiting Medical Officer (VMO), Staff Specialist or Clinical Nurse Consultant who will then visit the patient. An assessment will be carried out to determine if the patient is suitable for admission to the service.

If the patient is suitable and is referred to the Outreach Service, the nursing staff will attend a follow up visit according to the priority indicated by the VMO. This visit may not occur immediately, but will occur from 1-7 days from the assessment visit made by the VMO, depending on urgency. If the patient is assessed as not suitable for the Palliative Care Service, the VMO/Staff Specialist will contact the doctor who made the referral to discuss options.

Other Palliative Care Community Referral Services

Maitland/Dungog:

P: (02) 4931 2003

F: (02) 4931 2005

Cessnock/Singleton

P: (02) 4931 2003

F: (02) 4931 2005

Port Stephens

P: (02) 4925 7990

F: (02) 4925 7950

Toronto/Morrisset

P: (02) 4925 7990

F: (02) 4925 7950

Upper Hunter District

P: (02) 6542 2050

F: (02) 6542 2005

Other palliative care services contact details can be found on the Palliative Care Australia website – Details available on the links section of this website.