

Implementation Plan for the Guidelines for the Networking of Paediatric Services in NSW

Background

NSW Health is committed to the integration of service provision across the primary care and acute hospital sectors and the appropriate networking of services to ensure access to high quality care, particularly for rural NSW communities. As part of this commitment, the Statewide Paediatric Services Advisory Committee, chaired by the Director-General, has overseen the development of the Guidelines for Networking of Paediatric Services in NSW. These Guidelines form part of a range of strategies that promote quality and integrated service delivery.

The Guidelines were developed with extensive consultation with the range of clinicians and service providers in this area, and were endorsed in March 2002. While the focus of the project to date has been paediatrics, to ensure that there is greater emphasis on the child, there has been a commitment to extend the activities of the group to incorporate issues relating to child health.

Additional funding has been provided each year to support networking initiatives; the NSW Health commitment has extended to the provision of financial resources both for network coordination and seeding funds for clinical enhancement projects for the three child health networks.

Purpose

The goal of paediatric services networking is to improve quality of care to children. This will be achieved by ensuring that, on an ongoing basis, staff providing care to children have access to appropriate training; services are targeted to areas of need via outreach clinics; services are provided in a planned and coordinated manner avoiding duplication; prompt specialist advice is available for clinicians; and, access to specialist services is streamlined. Whilst aiming to provide the best possible care as close as possible to where children live, there is a recognition that not all services can be provided at all locations.

A component of paediatric networking has been the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines, which comprise a central component of the Guidelines for Networking Paediatric Services in NSW. Clinical practice guidelines have been developed by clinicians, for the ten most common paediatric presentations to Emergency Departments.

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Principles of the Guidelines for Networking Paediatric Services in NSW

The Guidelines for Networking Paediatric Services in NSW focus on six dimensions of quality outlined in *"A Framework for Managing the Quality of Health Services in NSW"*, which are:

- Safety
- Consumer Participation
- Appropriateness
- Access
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency

These dimensions of quality provide the basis of service planning. In relation to networking it translates into the following principles:

- Maintaining the child in the family environment; noting the importance and primary role of the General Practitioner and other ambulatory and outpatient specialist services in reducing the need and likelihood of admission and length of time children spend in hospital.
- Importance of primary and secondary prevention strategies that include early detection of children at risk, health education and health promotion.
- Supporting parents in developing parenting skills which are particularly important in the early childhood years through programs such as the "Families First", and others developed through a whole of Government approach.
- Providing a mechanism to ensure the involvement of consumers, local clinicians, nurses, allied health and other children's service providers in service planning.
- Promoting an integrated model of service delivery through the development of integrated service networks and common protocols.

Implementation

The implementation of the Guidelines for Networking of Paediatric Services in NSW has been progressed by Area Health Services and the Department, under the auspices of the Statewide Paediatric Networking Steering Group. Various strategies will be engaged throughout the implementation, detailed below. The strategies will be successful only with the early engagement of clinicians, consumers, administrators and planners.

In order to ensure integration of a number of the key strategies, a draft plan based on the Principles for Networking of Paediatric Services has been developed. These principles reflect the NSW Health Quality Framework, and are applied at each of the three levels: Statewide; Network; and, Area Health Service. Each level considers relevant performance indicators.

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<i>Key Activities</i>			
Dimension	Statewide	Network	Area Health Service
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the development of statewide initiatives eg Clinical Practice Guidelines, Guidelines for the Hospitalisation of Children in NSW, in partnership with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of education and training programs. • Development and roll out of clinical practice guideline implementation plan. • Coordinate the development of plan for optimal paediatric/child health services throughout the network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a local implementation strategy for Statewide and/or network initiatives. • Incorporate paediatric/child health networking issues into local activities
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and refine paediatric/child health networking principles • Plan paediatric tertiary and super specialty services. • Provide a mechanism for coordination of service planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan identifying future paediatric specialist outreach service provision. • Through planning, identify strategies for improved access, across the network, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan to achieve by 2006 self sufficiency of general paediatric services (Medical and Surgical) • Plan services in collaboration with network partners • Provide safe and effective paediatric emergency services in child friendly EDs • Communicate with Divisions of General Practice with regard to paediatric/child health networking issues.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of networking principles and philosophy to proposed service enhancements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidelines for transfer of non acute patients within networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuity of care through acute, outpatient and community settings. • Review current specialist paediatric

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations regarding the realignment of specialist paediatric outreach to reflect network configuration to avoid duplication. 	<p>outreach requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current specialist paediatric outreach service provision for both network and non network partners, and contribute to Network analysis.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a broad communication strategy. • Provide clarity about statewide paediatric issues to CEO's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a network wide communication strategy, using a variety of media • Facilitate exchange of ideas and identification of best practice models of care. • Develop inter and multidisciplinary professional partnerships • Develop strategies to increase the availability of resources for network partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information locally regarding paediatric/child health issues and activities • Promote and support paediatric/child health networks to consumers and clinicians within AHSs. • Ensure child health service providers are aware of, and can access appropriate continuing education and skill development.
Effectiveness & Appropriateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support innovative models of care through allocation of enhancement funding. • Promote primary and secondary care development as an aspect of paediatric networking. • Development and implementation of ten Clinical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate network enhancement proposals promoting innovative and appropriate models of care and service provision, in accordance with networking principles. • Effective reporting of network enhancement projects. • Collaborate with network partners & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review relevance and suitability of 'new'/emerging models of care for local and network needs, in collaboration with network partners. • Implement new models of care and service provision as required on an area wide basis. • Local implementation, monitoring and

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	Practice Guidelines.	NSW Health and ICE to develop and facilitate the implementation of the Clinical Practice Guidelines.	evaluation of outcomes associated with the Clinical Practice Guidelines.
Workforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor workforce trends and collaborate with networks to implement strategies to address trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and report workforce trends by partners and develop and implement network wide strategies. • Develop a multidisciplinary education needs analysis and strategy for the network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review local workforce needs and contribute to a network and/or statewide strategy. • Participate in an educational needs analysis, and contribute to a network wide education strategy. • Facilitate and participate in the implementation of a network education strategy across the Area.
Consumer Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate consumer representation on SPNSG. • Ensure broad consumer input into statewide paediatric/child health initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines for consumer participation on networking steering group. • Advertise and appoint appropriate consumer representative. • Implement strategies to ensure broad consumer input into network paediatric/child health initiatives, this includes clinician consumers of the networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate child health network issues into consumer consultation processes.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPSNG meets regularly and sets strategic directions and networking framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a network governance model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local implementation of governance principles. • Support staff in network activities.

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Timeframe: It is expected that Area Health Services will incorporate the activities of this plan within clinical service plans. Accordingly, the timeframe for implementation of each strategy will vary depending on each Areas identified priorities and current progress towards the identified goals. While it is recognised that a number of aspects of this plan will be ongoing, it anticipated that Areas, Networks and NSW Health will have full implementation of the plan by June 2007.