

Title of study: Residential Aged Care Facility / Hospital Clinical Handover

Description

GP Partners is conducting a study targeting patient hand-over processes and clinical information flow between Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs), Hospitals and treating General Practitioners (GPs).

The project will include all Residents from Residential Aged Care Facilities in the GPpartners catchment area who are admitted to, and discharged from The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Emergency Department, and/or Acute Ward areas, including day admissions and Hospital in the Nursing Home.

An audit tool has been developed to review the information that has been received by the hospital from the RACF and/or GP when a resident is admitted.

A project officer in QH will review all the charts of residents admitted, against this audit tool, to see if effective communication is taking place

A similar audit tool has been developed to review the information that is received by the GP/RACF on discharge to the facility. GPs who are regular Residential Aged Care GPs in the GPpartners division, will undertake a chart review, against this audit tool, of all residents discharged back to the facilities from RBWH over a one month period

Information from the original audit will be collated and recommendations for changes made. It is our intention to initiate some of these recommendations to chosen areas of the RBWH and to RACFs/GPs and to repeat an audit using the revised audit tools, over another one month period. As part of this process GPpartners may introduce an electronic shared record system to some GPs, RACFs and acute areas of the RBWH.

From this project, a toolkit, containing the methodology, audit forms, and process for managing recommendations will be published to enable other hospitals, GPs and RACFs to review and improve information sharing in any area across Australia.