

Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP)

Information for clinical mental health nurses

Q. How will a CMHN register new patients in FIXUS starting 1 July 2016?

A. GPs or psychiatrists wanting to refer MHNIP eligible patients either to CMHN attached to their practice or any of the available CMHNs in the EMPHN catchment will need to complete the EMPHN Mental Health Referral Form and send to secure fax 8677 9510. Referrals can be directly allocated to the CMHN specified in the referral if the CMHN has the capacity. It is therefore important that CMHNs keep the intake team informed of their availability. This is done through FIXUS. For practices without an attached CMHN, the EMPHN Intake staff will allocate to an appropriate individual CMHN.

Q. Will the EMPHN Intake delay service delivery to patient?

A. EMPHN recognises the unique relationships between GPs and the nurses they work with. For this reason, a nurse may commence to work with a patient in accordance with current EO procedures and the referral process will confirm GP decisions in retrospect.

It is important that the EMPHN referral form is completed in full. Only critical information is requested and a form that is not complete will require intake staff to ring a GP to confirm details before a patient can be logged onto the system. The referral form will include information to ensure the referral is within the Department of Health guidelines, and intake staff will have certain 'flags' for referrals which will trigger EMPHN triage review. For example, this would be the case if a person with mild anxiety is referred to a nurse which is outside the MHNIP guidelines specifying serious mental illness and at risk of hospitalisation. Any concerns about the appropriateness of the referral will be conducted efficiently to limit any possible disruption to service delivery.

Q. Where will I find this referral form?

A. The referral form will be available from the EMPHN website. For referrers such as GPs, we aim to have templates that can be saved into GP patient information systems, such as Medical Director.

Q. Will my patient need a Mental Health Treatment Plan?

A. As per the current program guidelines from the Federal Department of Health, Mental Health Treatment Plans (MHTPs) are required for GP referrals to the MHNIP and ATAPS programs. Suicide Prevention Service referrals and Partners in Recovery (PIR) referrals do not require MHTPs. If additional paperwork is required to support a referral, this will be indicated on the referral form. A copy of the MHTP does not need to be forwarded to EMPHN and can be forwarded directly to the allocated clinician. If the referrer would like EMPHN to identify a clinician, then it should be clearly specified in the referral, and forwarded to the EMPHN to assist with allocation of an appropriate nurse

Q. How do I send a referral to EMPHN?

A. Complete the EMPHN mental health service referral form and fax by secure fax to 8677 9510.

This is a secure line, and the EMPHN intake team receive it as an electronic document.

Q. As a CMHN, how will a centralised intake impact on my current practice if I work directly in a GP clinic?

A. If the referred patient meets the eligibility criteria for the MHNIP program, EMPHN will confirm the GP referral and the patient can see the nurse at the practice immediately.