

# Practice Nurse and Clinical Nurse Consultant Peer Led Collaborative Group: Challenges and Opportunities

Practice Nurses (PNs) are at the interface between primary care and hospital services, yet their capacity to improve integrated care has not been fully explored. The Peer Led Collaborative (PLC) group brought together PNs and Clinical Nurse Consultants (CNSs) in the St George locality for small group learning sessions from July to December 2019. It was a project within the NSW Health Integrated Care Strategy aiming to deliver seamless care in the health system.

## PLC group objectives

- strengthen networks between PNs and CNCs and
- improve effective management and referral pathways for patients with chronic conditions

## Topics of six small group learning sessions

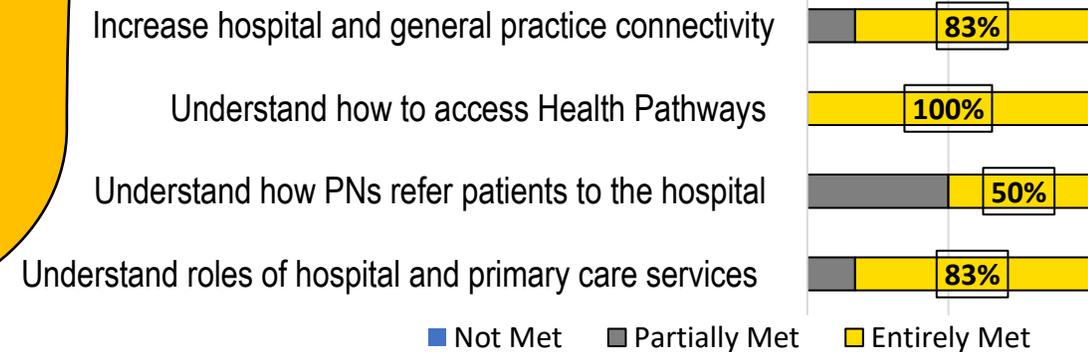
- Set learning objectives
- Accessing Health Pathways information portal
- Transferring care from primary care to the hospital
- Communication between hospital and primary care
- Referring patients to Extended Community Care
- Future directions

“I am now aware that we are not working in isolation ... hospital staff are willing and interested in working together”. PN

“[The PLC] has helped me [to understand] the importance of building relationships with general practice”.

CNC

## Learning objectives



## Implications and challenges

Small group learning can enhance seamless care. However the broad scope of practice and various learning needs of PNs place constraints on their ability to bridge services. Self sustaining learning sessions were therefore difficult. Future initiatives could be to map PN needs and locations, provide clinical clustered mentoring and continue networking / learning opportunities.

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