

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS AND DESCRIBING PATHWAYS TO IMPROVE PALLIATIVE CARE

Hunter New England (HNE) Health Pathways is an innovative, sustainable, whole of system solution to improve assessment and management in primary care and appropriate referral of patients to private and public specialist services. This has been realised via a collaborative effort between the Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECCPHN) and the HNE Local Health District (HNELHD).

HNECC PHN was the first PHN in Australia to introduce HealthPathways and it has now been adopted by a majority of PHNs across the country.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEED

In 2012 the Palliative Care team approached HNE HealthPathways to develop a suite of pathways to support primary care clinicians to respectfully manage patients at home and make sensitive decisions around appropriate referrals. During the first meetings, we discussed what was working well in both the primary and acute settings and also brainstormed potential improvements in the palliative care space.

