Expression of Interest

Reach & Refer: Delivering alcohol-related interventions to older people

Would your practice like to be involved in an innovative 12-month program being commissioned by Adelaide PHN to help your older patients (aged 50+) discuss their alcohol consumption?

Background

Older adults (aged 50+) are increasingly drinking at risky and harmful levels and are a priority population identified in Adelaide PHN's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Framework. Older adults account for almost one-quarter of the population in the Adelaide PHN region and the number of older people in the region is expected to increase by over 50,000 by 2030.

General practice has an essential role in reducing alcohol-related harm in communities with most older Australians seeing a GP. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) guidelines (Yellow Book) recommends GPs screen all patients (aged 15+) for alcohol consumption every 2-4 years. Recording the proportion of patients with an alcohol consumption status is an improvement measure included in the Department of Health's Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement (PIP-QI) incentive.

Aim

Reach & Refer comprises a suite of modulated interventions, delivered by general practice and specialist AOD services, and specifically targeted at older adults (aged 50+) within the Adelaide PHN region, that aims to:

- Reduce morbidities and mortalities associated with risky and harmful levels of alcohol consumption;
- Support general practice to routinely screen for alcohol consumption and intervene when patients need support to address risky or harmful patterns of alcohol consumption; and
- Enhance integrated care through the development of referral pathways between general practice and the AOD sector.

Program Description

The Reach arm will take place in general practice and will be delivered by GPs / practice nurses employed by the participating practices. It involves information provision, preliminary screening, initial brief intervention and referral to the Refer arm of the program (where clinically appropriate).

Patients with identified harmful alcohol consumption will be referred to the Refer arm and will have the opportunity to participate in holistic assessment and intensive patient-centered counselling delivered by a Registered Nurse with extensive knowledge of AOD issues. The Registered Nurse will be employed by an Adelaide PHN-funded AOD service provider.

What your practice will receive

Resources developed by Monash University as part of the REACH Research Project including:

- Waiting room posters and take-home brochures
- Smoking, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity (SNAP) Lifestyle Questionnaire
- Brief intervention flow chart and standard drinks guide
- Alcohol and risks to your health charts
- Desktop and wall signs for use in GP/nurse rooms
- Podcasts for health professionals involved in program implementation

Additional incentive payments from Adelaide PHN at program commencement and completion.

Benefits to your practice

- Improve practice systems and expertise in identifying and managing older adult patients with problematic alcohol use
- Improve short-term and medium-term patient outcomes by offering individualized advice to reduce health risks
- Promote and maintain a culture of quality learning in your practice
- Enhance patient-centred strategies in your practice
- Enhance the capacity of your practice to identify and appropriately support older adults consuming alcohol at risky and harmful levels
- Support from Adelaide PHN Practice Facilitators to leverage the incentives provided by the Department of Health to general practice to increase alcohol use screening via PIP-QI.

Practice participation requirements

- Display / make available to patients the Reach information resources
- Administer the SNAP Lifestyle Questionnaire to patients aged 50+ years who have not been screened for alcohol consumption in the previous 2-4 years
- Conduct the AUDIT-C with patients who have been administered the SNAP and, if clinically appropriate, refer patients to the Refer Registered Nurse
- Provide a room to be used by the Refer Registered Nurse on a regular / needs basis (the practice will be reimbursed for room rental using a fixed rate).
- Using PEN CS / PEN CAT data the practice will be required to report on the number of patients aged 50+ years who have been screened for alcohol consumption.

Practice eligibility criteria

- Must be located within the Adelaide PHN region
- Have a clinical and billing system compatible with PEN CAT (medical Director, Best Practice, ZedMed)
- Have a consultation room that can be made available for the Refer Registered Nurse (employed by Adelaide PHN commissioned AOD service provider)

More information

Complete the attached application form and return by email to:

Adelaide PHN Practice Support

E: practicesupport@adelaidephn.com.au

For further information about the program, please contact Allan Trifonoff, AOD/Psychosocial Lead, Adelaide PHN on 8219 5900.

If you would like to view the REACH resources, including information for GPs and Practice Nurses developed by Monash University click here

Approximate timelines and activities

Activity	Date
Applications open	**11 May 2022**
Applications close	**31 May 2022**
Applications assessed and practices selected	**Mid-June 2022**
General practice applicants notified	**June – July 2022**
Program Commences	**July - August 2022**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Application

Reach & Refer

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR GENERAL PRACTICE DETAILS	
NAME OF GENERAL PRACTICE:	
LEAD CONTACT PERSON:	
CONTACT PHONE:	CONTACT FAX:
PRACTICE ADDRESS:	
CONTACT EMAIL:	

INCLUSION CRITERIA CHECKLIST	
Do you have a clinical and billing system that is compatible with PEN CAT (Medical Director, Best Practice, ZedMed)?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐
Are you able to provide protected time for staff/clinicians to participate in the project?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐
Will you share practice de-identified data on patient alcohol histories for Adelaide PHN monitoring and evaluation processes?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐
Does your practice have a consultation room available that can be used by the Refer Registered Nurse when required?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

GENERAL PRACTICE CHARACTERISTICS

Please nominate who in the practice would be involved (including a Reach & Refer Champion/Practice Lead):

Please outline the reasons why your practice would like to be involved?

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