

HammondCare Health Inpatient Admission Criteria Greenwich and Neringah Palliative Care Units

1. Purpose

To outline the admission criteria for palliative care patients to be safely admitted to Greenwich or Neringah Palliative Care Units (PCU).

2. Scope

Clinicians referring to HammondCare palliative care inpatient units.

3. Background

Greenwich Hospital and Neringah Hospital are Schedule 3 Affiliated Health Organisations (AHO) situated in the suburbs of Greenwich and Wahroonga respectively. They are owned and operated by HammondCare and are contracted by Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) to provide public palliative care services, with Greenwich Hospital including a 22-bed subacute palliative care unit and Neringah Hospital including a 19-bed subacute palliative care unit. The palliative care units are able to accommodate public, private, Department Veteran Affairs (DVA) and self-funded patients.

Both units provide short-term needs-based care for patients with life-limiting illnesses at various times in their illness journey. This care is provided by comprehensive multidisciplinary team which include medical, nursing, allied health, and pastoral care support to meet the unique needs of the patients, carer, and family. This includes:

- Symptom management (physical, psychosocial, and spiritual)
 - High quality end of life care
 - Discharge planning
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Policy

Admission Criteria Inclusions

- Patients with active, progressive, life limiting illness and complex physical, psychosocial, or spiritual needs.
- Patients who are approaching or have clearly entered the terminal phase of their illness.

Aspects of care that can be supported include:

- Analgesia which can be administered via the oral, sublingual, subcutaneous, and transdermal routes or delivered via infusion devices.
- Antibiotics which can be administered via the oral, intravenous, and intramuscular route.
- Subcutaneous denosumab and oral chemotherapy agents.
- Transfusions of packed red blood cells and intravenous bisphosphonates when medical staff are on site.
- Interventional radiological procedures can be organised at local radiology practices.
- Management of previously inserted Central Venous Access Devices (CVAD), pleural and ascitic catheters.
- Tracheostomies, Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), Indwelling Catheter (IDC), Supra Pubic Catheter (SPC), continuous bladder irrigation, Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) feeding, and complex wound management.
- Transport can be provided to appointments where clinically appropriate and within operational ability.

Note - Priority is given to community admissions. Planned admissions are admitted during business hours. Medical staff are on site during this time and conduct ward rounds (inclusive of weekends).

* Whilst emergency admissions can be accepted at all times **except overnight**, this is subject to the unit's capacity at that time.

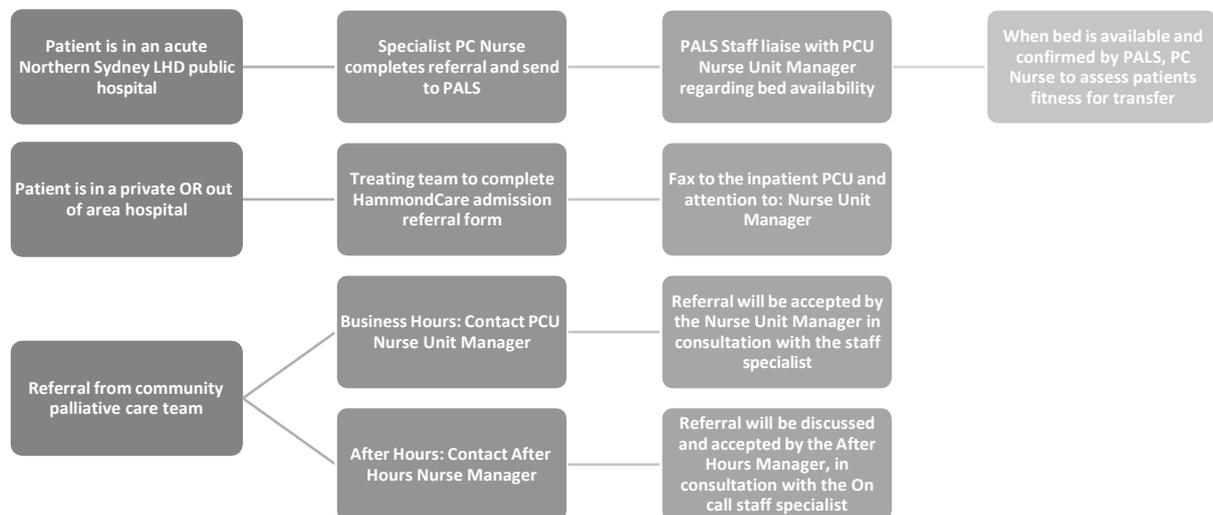
** Please note: If admission is for the sole purpose of Voluntary Assisted Dying it is to be escalated as soon as possible to the 1st escalation point and GM for consideration.

Exclusion Criteria

- Wandering or aggressive patients who require a secure environment.
- Paediatric Patients.
- Patients who do not have complex needs
Patients requiring long term care.
- Patients requiring:
 1. Acute hospital admission
 2. Intravenous chemotherapy
 3. Blood products aside from packed cells
 4. Platelet transfusions
 5. Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)
 6. More Invasive procedures

Referral Process

A referral from a clinician is required (Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Consultant, Nurse Practitioner or Specialist/Generalist Medical Officers). Acceptance of referral and admission is by the Nurse Unit Manager in consultation with the staff specialist.



Admission Contact Details

For patients requiring admissions into HammondCare specialist palliative care unit **during business hours**, contact the Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) on either:

Greenwich – (M) 0400 788 807 (Fax) 9903 8100
Neringah – (M) 0438 891 359 (Fax) 9487 1599

For patients living in the community and known to HammondCare specialist palliative care services that require admission **outside of business hours** contact the After-Hours Palliative Care Phone Support on 1800 427 255.

Overnight admissions between the hours of 2200 to 0800 are unable to be accommodated.

Risk Assessment / Key Performance Indicators

Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) Data
Patient Feedback via Riskman

Related Documents

Legislative and other external references

- Nil

Policies

- HammondCare Health Admission Policy

Consultation Groups

- Palliative Care Nurse Unit Managers
- Community Palliative Care, Nurse Manager
- Staff Specialists
- Operations Manager/Director of Nursing – North
- Medical Director, Hammond Care / Clinical Director, NSLHD
- Manager Operations and Partnerships, Palliative Care

	Version	Status	Issued
Owner Operations Manager/Director of Nursing-	1	Final	Nov 2023