

CLINICAL REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

POLICY

Consistency and quality of care can be assisted by the use of current resources, access to clinical guidelines and communication between team members. This process is encouraged and facilitated by the practice clinical leader.

This practice provides medical and nursing access to a range of resources and materials for reference on clinical matters and items of interest for professional development. General practitioners can access current information on medicines to enable best practice prescribing.

We are selective about the resources clinical staff to use to support information provided during a consultation. We aim to ensure they contain culturally appropriate, current and evidence based information and are obtained from reputable source. Where possible these resources should be dated, contain the name of the source and referenced to supportive evidence.

The references available contain information that is consistent with current practice guidelines or based on best available evidence. In the absence of well conducted trials or other higher order evidence the opinion of consensus panels of peers is acceptable. References and resources including practice guidelines should be accessible at the point of care.

There is an organised system of access for all practice staff to journals, clinical guidelines and other reference material.

The clinical references available and any new additions, deletions or updated versions is communicated to all staff and clinical team members to assist with consistency in the approach to diagnosis and management of patient care.

PROCEDURE

The practice has a range of resources and materials for reference on clinical matters.

- Several current and valid clinical practice guidelines (e.g. RACGP Guidelines, National Prescribing Service) are available in the Doctors' library – M drive/Reference Folder
- Reference books and other information are available in the Doctors' library.
- Electronic therapeutic guidelines are available for each doctor.
- Factsheets via the clinical software

Recommendations on clinical care are available from sources such as:

- Australian Cancer Network clinical practice guidelines at www.cancer.org.au/healthprofessionals/clinicalguidelines.htm
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Ensuring Correct Patient, Correct Site, Correct Procedure Protocol at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/former-pubs-archive-correct
- Australian Medicines Handbook at www.amh.net.au
- Australian Prescriber at www.australianprescriber.com

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- Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association (CARPA) treatment and reference manuals at www.carpa.org.au
- Cochrane database at <http://acc.cochrane.org/cochrane-library>
- Diabetes Australia at www.diabetesaustralia.com.au
- Guidelines for the care of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people <http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/states-territories-home/sa/resources>
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) at www.naccho.org.au/resources/guidelines.html
- National Asthma Council at www.nationalasthma.org.au
- National Health and Medical Research Council at www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/index.htm
- National Heart Foundation at www.heartfoundation.com.au
- National Prescribing Service at www.nps.org.au
- RACGP Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice (the 'red book') at www.racgp.org.au/guidelines/redbook
- RACGP Medical care of older persons in residential aged care facilities ('silver book') at www.racgp.org.au/guidelines/silverbook
- RACGP Putting prevention into practice: guidelines for the implementation of prevention in the general practice setting (the 'green book') at www.racgp.org.au/greenbook
- RACGP Smoking, Nutrition, Alcohol and Physical Activity (SNAP) framework for general practice at www.racgp.org.au/guidelines/snap
- Rational Assessment of Drugs and Research (RADAR) at www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/publications/nps_radar
- Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne clinical guidelines at www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide
- Therapeutic Guidelines at www.tg.com.au/home/index.html .
- The Australian immunisation Handbook, 9th Edition <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>

At least annually we conduct an audit of our clinical resources and references to ascertain if they comply with current practices and are providing consistent management and information to patients across the practice team.

It is a standing item at our clinical meetings to discuss any new clinical issues, resources or clinical practice guidelines.

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