

GP information ADHD Shared Care

Community Paediatrics is transitioning to a new shared care model for children and young people with ADHD in Sydney Local Health District. This model has been developed in partnership with CESP HN and is supported by recent NSW legislative changes enabling a greater role for GPs in ADHD management. The focus is on strengthening collaboration between paediatricians and GPs to improve access to ADHD services for families.

What will this mean for GPs?

- Paediatricians will continue to complete the ADHD assessment, diagnosis and initial treatment stabilisation.
- Once a child's medication is stable, GPs will be invited to partner with Community Paediatrics to provide ongoing ADHD care, including continuation prescribing of stimulant medications.
- Ongoing ADHD reviews will occur every 6 months, alternating between the paediatrician and GP.
- Paediatricians will provide an ADHD management plan, guidance regarding ongoing prescribing, and will remain available for advice or clinical oversight as required.

How will shared care work?

A dedicated ADHD Shared Care Coordinator has been appointed to support implementation of the shared care model, including facilitating shared care partnerships, supporting GP education and training, assisting families during the transition, and acting as a liaison between GPs and paediatricians to ensure timely responses to requests for advice or urgent reviews.

Shared care protocols have been developed to provide clear guidance for GPs, including pathways for escalating clinical concerns, as well as an ADHD Shared Care HealthPathway to support point-of-care decision-making. Additional education opportunities are currently being developed to further build GP confidence and capacity in ADHD management. These will complement existing training packages available through NSW Health (<https://short-courses.sydney.edu.au/course/ADHD>) and the RACGP (<https://www.racgp.org.au/education/professional-development/online-learning/gplearning>).

What are the next steps?

If a patient under your care is enrolled in the shared care pathway, the Shared Care Coordinator will contact you directly with further information and to provide a clinical handover from the paediatrician.

Any questions/concerns?

The Community Paediatric team is committed to building strong, sustainable partnerships with GPs. Please contact the Shared Care Coordinator for any questions or support regarding ADHD shared care.

