

# **A review of the Allied Health General Medicine model of care – an individual health network approach**

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## Abstract

**Background:** The General Medicine program at Monash Health accepts patient admissions across three acute hospital sites. Cohort specific, defined models of care and co-ordinated intervention methods have been described and utilised in many areas of healthcare. However, although a variety of General Medicine models have been considered, a distinct Allied Health model of care specific to acute General Medicine remains unclear. Therefore, a review of the Allied Health service to acute General Medicine at Monash Health was conducted, with a focus on assessing variability.

**Method:** A comprehensive set of qualitative and quantitative data and information was collected during this project. It details the current acute General Medicine program and associated Allied Health service across nine disciplines. Examples of this include program and patient data, individual stakeholder interviews, consumer feedback and focus groups. Analysis was performed, and a workshop for Allied Health Directors and Senior Managers was completed to assist with guiding project outcomes.

**Results:** Variation exists within the Allied Health model of care to General Medicine at Monash Health. However, as variation is also embedded within the associated medical program model, it is a relatively small variation. A set of guiding principles were articulated which support eight specific recommendations developed in three main topics: variability, model of care and new opportunities. As a whole, the recommendations aim to maximise the use of current resources, reduce variability, provide best patient care and promote career progression for Allied Health clinicians, while continuing to develop strong relationships between Allied Health and the General Medicine program.

**Discussion:** Both the guiding principles and recommendations articulated in this project form a basis for the ongoing evolution of the Allied Health General Medicine model of care, in collaboration with medical and nursing colleagues.