Impact of transdisciplinary advanced allied health practitioners within paediatric neurodevelopmental and behavioural clinics

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Research Aim

To investigate the impact of a transdisciplinary advanced allied health practitioner (paediatrics) on the pathways for children referred to a paediatric outpatient service at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Health Service

Data Collected
1. Wait times from referral to first consultation
2. Wait times from referral to diagnosis
3. Clinical pathway
4. Clinical consistency

Participants
- 225 children
- Aged 5-14 (mean 7)
- 2014 to 2017
Wait Time

Clinical Pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical pathway</th>
<th>Chi Square test</th>
<th>$X^2$ (2, $N = 225$) = 59.81, $p =&lt;.000$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time to diagnosis</td>
<td>Kruskal-Wallis H Test</td>
<td>$H(2) = 20.51$, $p&lt;.000$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to initial consultation</td>
<td>Kruskal-Wallis H Test</td>
<td>$H(2) = 130.44$, $p&lt;.000$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#### Clinical Pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AAHP only</th>
<th>AAHP &amp; SMO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>38 (50.7)</td>
<td>37 (49.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>40 (53.3)</td>
<td>35 (46.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>78 (52)</td>
<td>72 (48)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Wait Time**

- **Jan-Jun 2014**: 
  - Weeks until diagnosis: 60 (50.7)
  - Weeks until initial consultation: 10 (53.3)
- **July - Dec 2014**: 
  - Weeks until diagnosis: 30 (50.7)
  - Weeks until initial consultation: 10 (53.3)
- **July - Dec 2016**: 
  - Weeks until diagnosis: 20 (50.7)
  - Weeks until initial consultation: 10 (53.3)
Take home messages

★ Preliminary support for transdisciplinary advanced allied health practice supporting children in neurodevelopmental and behavioural outpatient clinics at tertiary and regional hospitals
★ Can reduce waiting times and streamline service delivery
★ Can reduce time to diagnosis and accessing early intervention
★ Dependent on team mix and individual clinicians skills
★ Organisational support required for ongoing training and education
★ Could be effective in other similar hospital services

“Right person, right skills, right service”
Future research

✓ Parent and child experience of advanced allied health practice
✓ Clinical staff experience of working in a transdisciplinary model
✓ Clinical staff experience of advanced allied health practice

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