



NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN THE GENERAL PRACTICE SETTING

Background

Nurse Practitioner Rural Outreach Model in Buloke/Loddon and Gannawarra Shires:

The Nurse Practitioner Rural Outreach Model (NP-ROM) has been developed as a not-for-profit model for increasing access to primary healthcare services in rural thin markets.

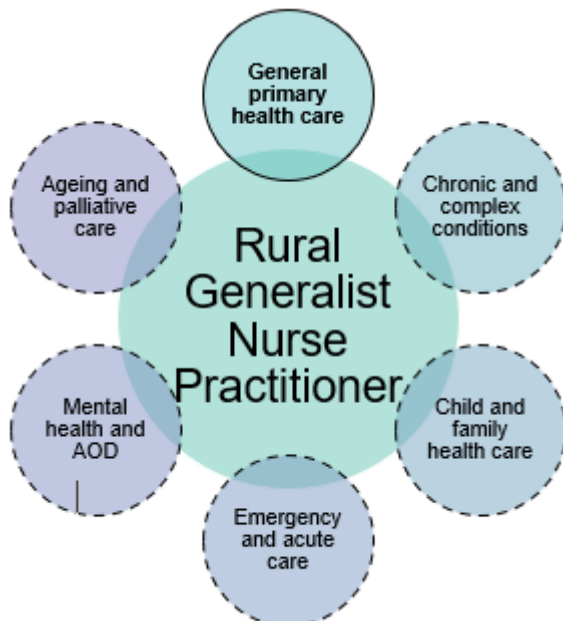
The aim is to provide high quality and sustainable primary healthcare services with positive patient and provider experience and community health outcomes. The model was developed through the Sustainable Rural Health project and has potential to be effective in other contexts.

The model of care involves a rural generalist nurse practitioner providing generalist and specialist services in primary healthcare settings, within their scope of practice. A care coordinator provides a range of administrative supports and supports for patient access, locally employed as a medical receptionist or as an enrolled nurse at rural and isolated sites.

The model described, enables sufficient revenue to cover clinic costs, but this varies site by site depending on availability of additional funding, care coordinator employment arrangements, and other costs or in-kind provisions e.g. room hire, consumables, travel.

Reviewing how this model has worked in the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra Shires may help clinics to understand if employing a nurse practitioner (NP) may be a viable option for their own clinics.

Nurse practitioner scope of practice



General guidelines

- The target ratio of General consultations to Specialist consultations is 50-75% general consultations and 25-50% specialist consultations.
 - This is to allow for generalist primary healthcare clinic development and to demonstrate value of the full rural generalist nurse practitioner scope of practice, while also allowing for rotations of nurse practitioners with different specialities for the benefit of local communities and team-based care for people with complex conditions.
- The templates provided are to guide NP clinic bookings but can be adapted to suit local context i.e. patient needs and GP and clinic preferences.
- The target number of NP patient consultations per day is 14, with a minimum of 10.
- Eligible MBS items should also be claimed for care coordinator services/sites where relevant.
- Bulk-billing can be applied if there is additional funding or other subsidies to cover loss in revenue, for example gap funding, and/or in-kind care coordinator or room hire.

Type	Patient communications	MBS item	Time	Appointment calendar code	Co-payment	Services offered
Brief	“Brief appointment” “Script only” “Certificate only” “Phone follow up”	Level B 802205 Or Phone 91189	10mins	“Script”	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat general patients for script (only), medical certificate, or brief phone consultation.
Short	“Short appointment” “One issue” “Repeat specialist”	Level C 802210	20mins	“15 min”	\$15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new and repeat general patients with one presenting issue. • Repeat specialist patients with one presenting issue or standard follow up.
Long	“Long appointment” “More than one issue” “New specialist”	Level D 802215	40mins	“30 min” + “15 min”	\$30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new and repeat general patients with more than one presenting issue. • All new general patients known to have complex health issues including mental illness and/or disability. • All new specialist patients. • Home visits.

Notes: “New” means new to the nurse practitioner; a new specialist patient may need one to three long appointments before moving to short appointments, to be determined by NP.

Nurse practitioner general and specialist patient bookings

General patient consultations – General primary healthcare (all NPROM nurse practitioners)

Within scope	Not within scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most scripts • Authority scripts and review of authority scripts • Referral to specialists • Order all pathology tests • Pap smears • Adult/child immunisation and injection (or order for nurse to give) • De-sensitisation injections as per specialist instructions • Medical certificate, Centrelink medical certificate • Health education and health promotion • Asthma management plan • Anaphylaxis management plan • ECG and limited radiology (most x-rays, some ultrasounds): <p>Ultrasounds</p> <p>55036 Abdomen</p> <p>55070 Breast one side</p> <p>55076 Breast both sides</p> <p>55600 Prostrate</p> <p>55800 Hand or wrist</p> <p>55804 Forearm or elbow</p> <p>55808 Shoulder</p> <p>55812 Chest or Abdo wall</p> <p>55816 Hip or groin</p> <p>55820 Paediatric hip</p> <p>55852 Paediatric spinal</p> <p>55824 Buttock or thigh</p> <p>55828 Knee ultrasound</p> <p>55832 Lower leg</p> <p>55836 Ankle or hind foot</p> <p>55840 Forefoot or midfoot</p> <p>55844 Lump</p> <p>55848/55850 Musculoskeletal cross section echography</p> <p>X-rays</p> <p>57509 Fingers, elbows, forearms, hands, upper arms, wrist</p> <p>57515 Hands & elbows; arms, elbows & hands; wrists and forearms; wrists, elbows & arms; forearms & elbows; hands, wrists & forearms; wrists & hands.</p> <p>57521 Ankles, toes, feet, heels, knees, lower legs, upper legs</p> <p>58503 Chest</p> <p>58527 Sternum & ribs both sides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workcover claims • VicRoads drivers license medicals • Suturing • Excision of lesions • CT/MRI requests • Pelvic ultrasound request • Spinal requests • Referrals to central Victorian cardiology for Holter and Echo cardiograms • GP management plans/health assessment • Mental Health Care Plans • Cryotherapy • Centrelink medical certificate • TAC • Spirometry • Cortisone injections

Specialist patient consultations – Different for each NP, one or more of: Chronic and complex conditions, ageing and palliative care, mental health and AOD, emergency and acute care, child and family care.

Within scope
Comprehensive assessment
Complex diagnosis
Speciality prescribing
Secondary assessment to inform the GP and team-based care (second opinion)
Complex care planning
Complex care plan follow up to inform the GP and team-based care
Speciality treatment and therapeutic intervention

Clinic booking templates

***Examples only, mix and match to suit patient need, GP and clinic need, NP preference**

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4
9-10am	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	Three short 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)
10-11am	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)
11am-12pm	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	One short, one long 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82215 (Level D/40mins)	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)
12-1pm	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins)	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins)	Three short 82210 (Level C/20mins)	Two brief, two short 82205 (Level B/10mins)

	82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)	82205 (Level B/10mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins) 82210 (Level C/20mins)
12.30-1pm	<i>Lunch</i>			
1-4pm	Medical clinic Continue in medical clinic. Could also include team care arrangements – booked/billed by GP	School clinic <i>As booked by the school and care coordinator</i>	NDIS clinic <i>Onsite or home visits booked via health service and care coordinator</i>	Hospital clinic <i>As per service agreement (if relevant to site)</i>

MBS items

MBS items	Minutes	Ideal appointment time	Current MBS	FY 24/25 +30%	Co-payment	Total
Level A <u>MBS item 82200</u> (or 91192 telehealth or 91193 phone)	0-19	5	8.95	11.64	N/A	\$11.64
Level B <u>MBS item 82205</u> (or 91178 telehealth or 91189 phone)	0-19	10	19.55	25.42	N/A	\$25.42
Level C <u>MBS item 82210</u> (or 91179 telehealth or 91190 phone)	20-39	20	37	48.10	\$15	\$63.10
Level D <u>MBS item 82215</u> (or 91180 telehealth or 91191 phone)	over 40	40	54.6	70.98	\$35	\$105.98
<u>10997</u> Service for patient with GP Management Plan (maximum 5 per patient per year) AND <u>75856</u> rural Bulk Billing incentive MM5 (u/16 and pension only)	-	10	13.15 11.75 24.90	N/A	N/A	\$24.90

Options for consultations based on MBS items

The following options demonstrate how bookings can be managed to optimise MBS over a one-hour time period with relevant MBS at the FY24/25 rate with the 30% increase.

Two brief and two short

Type	MBS item	Ideal appt time	No. of consults	Total mins	FY24/25 +30%	With co-payments
Brief	Level B 82205, 91178 t/health or 91189 ph	10	2	20	\$50.83	\$50.83
Short	Level C 82210, 91179 t/health, or 91190 ph	20	2	40	\$96.20	\$126.2
Total			4	60	\$147.03	\$177.03

Three short

Type	MBS item	Ideal appt time	No. of consults	Total mins	MBS FY24/25 +30%	With co-payments
Short	Level C 82210, 91179 t/health, or 91190 ph	20	3	60	\$144.3	\$189.3
Total			3	60	\$144	\$189.3

One short and one long

Type	MBS item	Ideal appt time	No. of consults	Total mins	MBS FY24/25 +30%	With co-payments
Short	Level C 82210, 91179 t/health, or 91190 ph	20	1	20	\$48.1	\$63.1
Long	Level D 82215, 91180 t/health or 91191 ph	40	1	40	\$70.98	\$105.98
Total			2	60	\$119	\$169.08

NDIS clinic

Item	Billing per hour
Delivery of Health Supports by a Nurse Practitioner - Weekday Daytime <u>15 424 0114 1 3</u> Delivered onsite or in home, additional non-labour travel time can be claimed if relevant.	\$164.78

Fee for service

Item	Billing per hour
School, hospital	\$250 less eligible MBS billings

For more information or support

Contact your local Quality Improvement Consultant or email gpsupport@murrayphn.org.au

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