

# Allied Health in GP Practice – An innovative model in patient care

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Project titled AH due to original submission however principally a PT role has developed at this stage.

## The context for change

- ◆ Dec 2004 over 1100 on the ortho OPC waiting list and rising
- ◆ Patients waiting 24 months for appointment
- ◆ Listing rate for surgery <30%
- ◆ 43% on waiting list treated with medications
- ◆ 19% had tried physiotherapy



Catalyst for change was increasing numbers of referrals to outpatients and inability to meet demand

In addition low listing rate for surgery, 20% DNA rate,  
Audit of WL revealed

## The Opportunity

- ◆ Review of Ortho services - Damian Armour
- ◆ AHGPP Pilot Project
- ◆ Funding from Percy Baxter Trust and DHS
- ◆ Collaboration between Barwon Health and the Geelong GP Association
- ◆ To establish role for allied health in GP practices



## Project Aims

- ◆ To assist the GPs in management of patients with chronic conditions by identifying appropriate conservative management options
- ◆ To establish a consultant Physiotherapist in three GP practices
- ◆ To support the GP in navigating the large range of treatment options



## Eligibility criteria

- ◆ Chronic conditions
- ◆ Likely to be referred into outpatient clinic for non-urgent appointment (category 2 and 3)
- ◆ Orthopaedic conditions
- ◆ Targeted GP Clinics with high referral rate to Ortho OPC



Patients referred to PT for a comprehensive assessment

# The Program

- ◆ Comprehensive PT assessment
- ◆ Development of care plan using medical director including options for management
- ◆ Input into TCA arrangements as necessary
- ◆ Liaison with community providers



## Results

- ◆ Three GP practices
- ◆ N= 426 (May 2005 – July 2006)
- ◆ 769 referrals created to community service options
- ◆ DNA rates – vary across GP practice (<15%)



Very low DNA rates at 2/3 practices. Third practice DNA rate is 15%

## Results

- ◆ 27 Ortho OPC
- ◆ 83 CHC
- ◆ 61 CRC
- ◆ 85 community exercise programs
- ◆ 46 Hydrotherapy
- ◆ 152 GP management plan
- ◆ 100 Private physio
- ◆ 17 Pain Clinic
- ◆ 20 BHSM (452 self management advice)

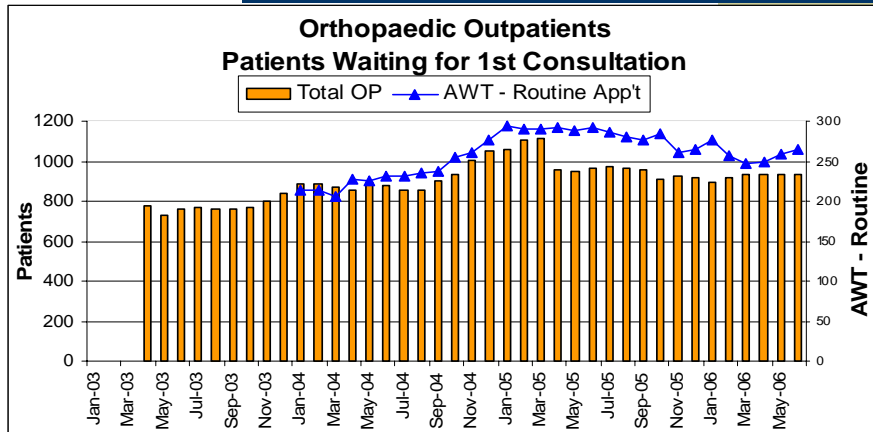


## Results

- ◆ Referral rate to Ortho OPC
  - 2004 - 47 (May 2004 to July 2004)
  - 2005 - 11 (May 2005 to July '06)
- ◆ Outcomes for patients – SF36, patient specific functional scale, PIH scale, focus groups

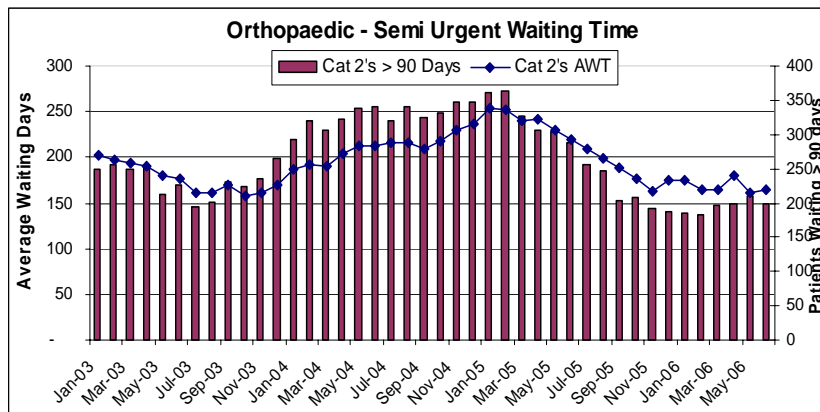


# Results

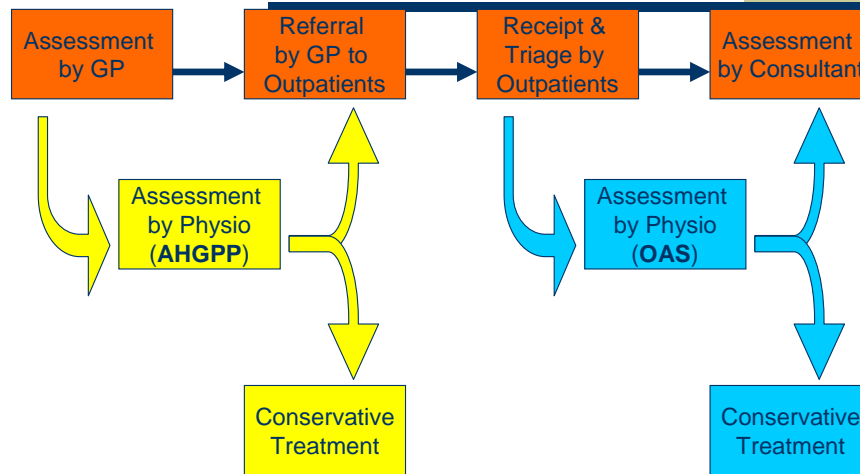


51% listing rate for surgery

# Results



# Access Interventions



## Key Learnings

- ◆ Managing waiting list from both within and external to Barwon Health
- ◆ Impact on waiting list and referral rates
- ◆ Increased access to private conservative services using GP management plans and team care arrangements



## Key learnings

- ◆ Project developed using GP tools – Medical Director
- ◆ Collaboration with the GP Association essential to success
- ◆ Community options are diverse and not necessarily easy to locate



Important GPs owned the project. Project leader based at GP association, not seen as BH telling GP what to do

## Key learnings

- ◆ Not suitable for all GP practices – availability of space, needs and expectations of GPs
- ◆ Opportunities to develop model with other chronic diseases and other disciplines (EICD)
- ◆ Clear guidelines re roles



One GP practice wanted the patients on the WL to be reviewed. 8 were reviewed with recommendations that 3 did not want or require surgery

Questions?

