

Tasmanian HealthPathways—clinical leadership in action

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Background: Tasmanian HealthPathways (THP) is being implemented in Tasmania, as collaboration between Tasmania Medicare Local, Department of Health and Human Service and Tasmanian Health Organisations funded under the Tasmanian health assistance package. The THP methodology is based on a successful NZ model, and innovation in health care delivery, the Canterbury Initiative. In this context, HealthPathways are an agreed team approach between primary, secondary and tertiary care providers in managing a patient in the Tasmanian Health system.

Methods: Since March, 19 clinical work groups (CWG) have been convened across the state with the purpose to develop localised Tasmanian HealthPathways in key clinical areas. This is a clinician lead approach with a total of 16 hospital specialists, 48 General Practitioners and a number of allied health practitioners attending CWGs.

Google analytics has been used to collect usage data for website uptake, since its official launch in October 2014.

In November, the promulgation phase commenced which includes General practice visits, presentations, website demonstrations and integration with the current TML education program.

Findings: Since March 2014, 87 pathways have been localised for the Tasmanian context and are available to health professionals via the live website. Pathways are currently being finalised in a range of neurodegenerative and respiratory conditions.

Other than pathway development, outcomes from CWGs have included options for capability and capacity building for health care improvement.

An initial, Google Analytics report (Table 1) recorded an increase in both page view and unique pages view over the first 2 month period, by 42.62% and 69.78% respectively. This data will be tracked regularly to monitor usage and uptake.

The feedback received from stakeholders has been generally positive, and focuses on the potential benefits to general practice teams and functionality of the website.

Conclusions: Initial findings indicate that the implementation of Tasmanian HealthPathways has been successful with a potential to support clinical practice, especially in rural regions of Tasmania, where access to services is limited. The development of a greater number of localised Tasmanian pathways and a comprehensive promulgation phase, over time will further enhance uptake and engagement with Tasmanian Health Practitioners and encourage a community of practice.