

Terms of reference

Spinal Cord Injury Care and Support ACI and MoH Working Group

Executive Sponsor:	Jean-Frederic Leveque ACI Chief Executive and Nigel Lyons Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Resources Ministry of Health NSW.		
Secretariat:	Komal Adarkar		
Chairperson/s:	Sarah Dalton and Vanessa Clements		
Term of office:	12 months with annual review		
Secretariat:	Komal Adarkar		
Endorsed by	[First name Last name]	Date	Date
Next review:	020920		
Review process:	With reference to the responsibilities and functions		
Decision making:	By Quorum		

Background

Spinal cord injury (SCI) is a neurological condition that affects 450 people in NSW every year, with an estimated prevalence of 5445. Among this group, in 2016-17 there were 8000 hospitalisations (1475 hospitalisations per 1000 people – compared with 360 per 1000 for the general NSW population). International research shows that services provided by specialist SCIU units are associated with better patient outcomes and value, particularly in more complex cases. A SCI marks the beginning of an ongoing relationship between a patient and the healthcare system. Effectively addressing the often complex, lifelong needs of people with spinal cord injury involves an integrated network of services spanning acute, subacute rehabilitation and community settings. Delivering the best SCI care in partnership with patients requires a system-wide effort. Key roles are played by supra-LHD specialist services, by outreach and community-based services across the metropolitan and rural areas of the state. Integration across services, interagency collaboration, redesign methods and co-design will all play an important role in effective planning for services and delivery of care.

Purpose

The working group will collaborate across NSW Health and related agencies to provide advice to ACI executive and NSW MOH, to identify priority areas and coordinate efforts to improve the quality and safety of healthcare for people over 16 years with spinal cord injury in NSW.

Responsibilities and functions

The Working Group will address the following questions in relation to SCI care and support:

- How does the system increase access to specialist SCI care?
- How does the system improve discharge planning?
- How does the system capture complexity?
- How does the system manage and avoid preventable complications?

Frequency of meetings

Quarterly two-hour meetings.

Structure & Agenda

The meeting will follow a structure with regular agenda items focused on capacity to provide specialist care, timely access to SCI services across the continuum of care; data collection, and application of Activity Based Funding (ABF) including cost drivers for spinal episodes as well as future planning and sustainability.

Method of evaluation

Annual Review of Terms of Reference and membership to assess ongoing requirements.

Quorum

Half membership plus one

Membership

Core membership will be supplemented by time-limited participation of key experts to progress thematic areas of work.

Name	Role	Organisation	Contact Details
Ms. Vanessa Clements	Director Specialty Services and Technology Evaluation	Ministry of Health NSW	Vanessa.Clements@health.nsw.gov.au
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Ms. Jenni Johnson	Stream Manager TPR	Agency for Clinical Innovation	Jenni.Johnson@health.nsw.gov.au
Ms. Komal Adarkar	Network Manager State Spinal Cord Injury Service	Agency for Clinical Innovation	komal.adarkar@health.nsw.gov.au