



Framework for the Integrated Care for Older People with Complex Health Needs

May 2013

BACKGROUND

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) is undertaking a project to develop a framework that integrates the care of older people with complex health needs. This project is in collaboration with the Integrated Care Branch, Ministry of Health.

An older person with complex health needs is one whose underlying co-morbidities and individual circumstances have a direct impact on their ability to function and maintain independence on a daily basis.

In NSW, older people (aged 65 years and over) account for 53% of total bed days however this population is only 38% of hospital separations.

Older people have an average length of stay of 8.4 days almost double the 4.5 days for patients aged less than 65 years.



Aims of the Framework

The framework aims to :

- Enable older people to have equitable and timely access to effective and appropriate hospital and community-based services
- Improve the effectiveness and utilisation of current models of care
- Reduce average length of stay for older people without an increase in readmission rates
- Reduce avoidable admissions for older people

Development of the framework and implementation

Over the next 18 months, the ACI will work with Local Health Districts and community stakeholders to develop and implement the integrated framework.

The Diagnostic Phase will develop an understanding of current services delivered to the older person with complex health needs and identify the challenges in providing these services.

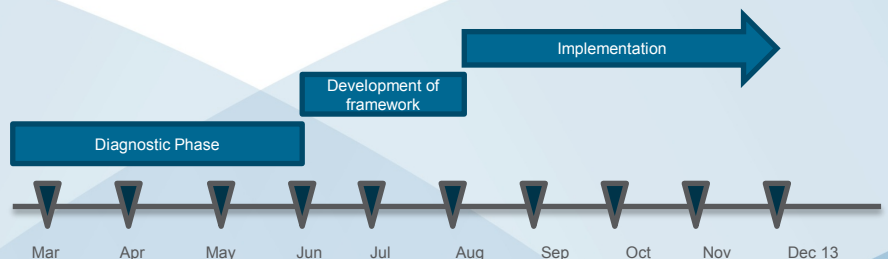
Development of the framework will involve broad consultation with clinicians, consumers, carers and service providers.

The ACI will work with LHDs and community stakeholders support the implementation of the integrated framework for older persons with complex healthcare needs

Why an integrated framework?

There are many effective models of care for older people.

However, older people and their carers/families, and health professionals often have difficulty identifying and accessing appropriate services to suit their needs.



“clinicians and consumers working together”

For more information contact: