

Management of COVID-19 positive patients in the community

Expressions of Interest sought from general practices in the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network region.

Background

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) are seeking expressions of interest from general practices who are interested in helping to manage COVID-19 positive patients in the NWMPHN region who do not have a regular GP.

General practices can safely manage low-risk COVID-19 patients in the community using telehealth.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital, cohealth, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and NWMPHN have developed a [pilot care pathway](#) for COVID-19 patients. Western Health are now joining this pilot, and Austin Health are developing another model of care to begin shortly. Other health services in the NWMPHN region are also in the process of developing or have developed models to care for patients in their local region.

What can GPs expect?

A local community health service will contact your practice to ask you to take on the care of a COVID-19 positive patient. Practices that agree to take on new patients will then take part in a clinical handover.

GPs will be asked to perform telehealth check-ins with all low risk COVID-19 positive patients:

- At least once in days 1-4; and
- Every second day in days 5-14.

Detailed guidelines regarding frequency of monitoring, clinical assessment and escalation pathways are provided on [HealthPathways Melbourne](#).

All telehealth consultations will be bulk billed and funded through MBS, as per the [MBS guidelines](#).

NWMPHN will contact GPs who have patients enrolled in the model to provide proactive support and access to useful resources and tools.

How to apply

Is your practice interested in caring for low risk COVID-19 positive patients who do not have a regular GP? To express your general practice's interest please email covid@nwmpHN.org.au