Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce Home Enteral Nutrition Project

HOME ENTERAL NUTRITION SERVICES IN NSW
GMCT HEN Working Group, Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce
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Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN) is the delivery of nutrition support either orally or by tube into the gastrointestinal tract in the home setting.

Introduction
The use of HEN is growing rapidly in Australia and worldwide. Currently, little is known about HEN patients and HEN services in NSW.

Methods
Surveys of health professionals, patients and HEN product providers and NSW healthcare facilities were conducted to determine the current level of HEN services in NSW.

Results
- 23% of HEN patients reside in regional or rural NSW
- 46% of adult HEN patients receive a pension/disability allowance

Access to Health Professionals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Health Professionals</th>
<th>% of healthcare facilities (n=41)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domiciliary Dietitian</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition Support Nurse</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stoma Nurse</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company Nurse</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Pathologist</td>
<td>34%</td>
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Monitoring and Review
- 54% of NSW public healthcare facilities have no policies and procedures for HEN.
- 12% (5/41) of NSW public healthcare facilities provide follow-up by telephone only
- 56% of NSW public healthcare facilities use nutrition company HEN services
- 19% of tube fed patients and 41% of oral HEN patients are reviewed only as requested by the patient

8,000 - 10,000 patients/year require HEN therapy
~450 patients commence HEN therapy each month

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Monitoring and Review

Patient Satisfaction Surveys
What are the 3 most important things you expected from the home nutrition service?
- Access to advice and help
- Reliability and availability of HEN supplies
- Affordable cost and delivery

Conclusion
Access to HEN services and health professionals varies across NSW. This has serious implications for clinical governance, patient safety and risk management. This data will assist in planning for future HEN services in NSW.