

Nursing Home Visits

- Frail nursing home residents are often unable to attend outpatient clinics. This service provides visits to residential facilities by a geriatrician or registrar in geriatric medicine.
- This service is aimed at providing individualised assessment and advice for general practitioners and nursing home staff in relation to all aspects of geriatric medicine for nursing home residents in the Southern Adelaide area.

Services include

- Age > 65 (or younger if “geriatric medicine” condition e.g. young onset dementia)
- Assessment of memory / cognition including behavioural issues in dementia
- End of life planning and discussions
- Medication review
- Falls assessment
- Review of Parkinson’s disease and therapies
- Assessment and advice on pain management

Information Required

- Named referral (medical referral is required for this service)
- Name and address of referring doctor and Nursing Home
- Next of kin’s name and contact details
- Comorbidities
- Medication
- Presence or absence of Advanced Care Directives
- Specific issues of concern

Investigations Required

- CT head (if available)
- Delirium screen if appropriate (ie FBE, EUC, LFTs, Ca, CRP, TFTs, B12 / folate, urine for MC&S)
- Any other relevant investigations or previous assessments including previous cognitive assessment scores

Fax Referrals to (*attention Dr Katherine Flynn*)

- Rehabilitation General Hospital 4th Generation Outpatient Clinic Fax: (08) 8275 1130

Red Flags

- ▣ severe behavioural issues compromising safety of resident or staff
- ▣ frequent falls with high risk of injury
- ▣ severe pain or other symptoms significantly affecting quality of life
- ▣ resident in terminal phase of life

Suggested GP Management

- delirium screen
- refer to Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (see clinical resources)
- trial low dose analgesia and / or low dose risperidone (for behavioural issues)
- clear documentation by nursing home staff of behaviours of concern and triggers

Clinical Resources

- Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service: <http://dbmas.org.au/want-to-know-more/resources/> or 1800 699799
- Falls: <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Guidelines-RACF.pdf>

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	September 2016	September 2018	Version 1, Original September 2014