Information Sheet: General Practitioners

Background & Context

Fitzroy Community Hospice (FCH), located at 38 Agnes Street, The Range, Rockhampton, is a 12 bed **Sub-Acute Palliative Care** Facility.

Founded by the community, FCH is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation governed by a Board of Directors and led operationally by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). FCH is non-denominational and independent.

Opened on 10th June 2024, FCH is accredited by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and licensed by the Private Health Regulation Unit of Queensland Health (PHRU). We are proud members of Palliative Care Queensland (PCQ) and are benchmarked with the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC).

A multi-disciplinary staff team provides dedicated and holistic palliative care, with at least one Registered Nurse and one Healthcare Assistant rostered each shift, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Care is provided at **no cost for both Private and Public patients.** Hospice care is complemented by the work of a variety of skilled Volunteers.

Model of Medical Care

Medical care at FCH is GP-led, with Specialist Palliative Care support. A weekly multidisciplinary team meeting is held to review current patients. FCH utilises an electronic medical record called PalCare, which enables remote access for Medical Practitioners (training available).

FCH provides the full spectrum of sub-acute palliative care, including **short term symptom management, carer crisis respite,** and **end-of-life care in the last weeks and days of life.** Length of stay is variable; average length of stay is 6 - 15 days.

All patients seeking admission to FCH must be referred by a Registered Medical Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner.
All Medical Practitioners must be Credentialled to provide medical care at FCH. Registrars can provide medical care under the supervision of a Credentialled Medical Practitioner.

Medical Practitioners are expected to review patients within 8 – 12 hours of admission, and on an as needed basis (at least twice weekly) thereafter.

As part of a **Hybrid Admitting Model,** patients can be admitted under –

(i) Their Usual GP i.e., **Classic** Model – where a patient's usual GP is willing, Credentialled and available; or

(ii) The **"Hospice Medical Team"** (HMT) – where a team of Credentialled GPs work together to provide care for a group of Hospice patients, including participating in an on-call roster.

Where a Usual GP admits their patient and due to emergency circumstances or planned leave is unable to provide medical care throughout the whole admission, the Hospice Medical Team will be available to take over care on request.

Credentialling

FCH has a Clinical Credentialling Procedure which articulates the process involved for Medical Practitioners to become credentialled.

Medical Practitioners must apply for Credentialling using the **Clinical Credentialling Application Form**. This includes the provision of a resume, identification documents, and evidence of professional indemnity insurance and immunity to vaccine preventable diseases.
The Hospice CEO, Clinical Services Manager and FCH Medical Advisory Group will assess all Credentialling Applications for professional suitability prior to granting Credentialling.

We welcome Credentialling Applications from all Medical Practitioners. Application Forms can be sought and submitted via CEO@fitzroyhospice.org.au and questions can be directed to Tanya Johnson Ph: 07 4887 4138.

Remuneration

Remuneration for Credentialled Medical Practitioners depends on the admission type (Classic or Hospice Medical Team), patient type (public or private) and the specialty of the Medical Practitioner.

As a guide, a Usual GP admitting a:

(a) Private patient can bill Medicare and the Private Health Fund combined, for the equivalent of the MBS schedule rate for GP hospital attendances (e.g. 100% of items 24, 37 & 47; derived for 2+ patients);
(b) Public patient will be entitled to invoice FCH for a fee equivalent to the current DVA rate for the relevant consultation item number.

Participation in the Hospice Medical Team is by invitation only, and remuneration for this will be discussed on an individual basis.

Of note, FCH can assist Medical Practitioners to register with Private Health Funds and with billing Medicare and Private Health Funds.