Background

The ability to provide quality care and patient safety is dependent on the availability of a highly skilled workforce. As the largest group of our front-line clinical workforce, nurses are an integral part of the solution to improving patient safety and delivering the most effective and efficient healthcare in Queensland.

The introduction of registered nurses undertaking endoscopy is an important part of improving health outcomes for Queenslanders. With the public demand for endoscopies set to double over the next five years, Queensland Health and the Queensland University of Technology have partnered to deliver a new nursing education initiative.

The Master of Nursing (Endoscopy) will provide registered nurses with the opportunity to receive theoretical and clinical education to enable them to practice as a Nurse Endoscopist.

The advanced practice nursing role of Nurse Endoscopist requires nurses to be educated at an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level 9 – Masters.

What is the Department of Health’s role?

The Department of Health, through the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, will assist by providing funding and overarching guidance to support the education of registered nurses.

The Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer will establish a centralised recruitment and selection process in partnership with individual Hospital and Health Services to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of all potential candidates.

The Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer will provide secretariat support for the centralised selection process. The selection panel will consist of a number of medical specialists and surgeons, Executive Directors of Nursing and Midwifery, and an appropriately experienced registered nurse from participating Hospital and Health Services.

Representatives from the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer are able to actively support each Hospital Health Service and their executive team throughout the delivery of this program.

Participation

The Queensland Government is committed to building a highly-skilled nursing workforce to increase capacity within the system and to ensure patient safety and the sustainability of front-line service delivery.

Participation in the Master of Nursing (Endoscopy) will assist Hospital and Health Services to facilitate the employment and development of registered nurses within a sustainable endoscopy and/or gastroenterology service model.

Each Hospital and Health Service facility interested in supporting the education and development of Nurse Endoscopists is required to develop a model of care and service delivery which demonstrates how the needs of the facility and the community will be met.

The model of care and service delivery must address the minimum organisational, clinical supervisor, and nurse endoscopy student pre-requisites as follows.
Pre-requisites

- Endorsement from the Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive
- Endorsement from the Gastroenterology Service Executive
- Endorsement from the Directors of surgery and anaesthetics
- Evidence of an established endoscopy-gastroenterology service
- Compliance with Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA) ‘Standards for Endoscopic Facilities and Services’ – minimum standard, or equivalent
- Service capacity for three endoscopy training lists per week (for patients per list) per student
- The number of clinical supervisors is dependent on the number of trainees. For one trainee there must be two clinical supervisors. If there are two or more trainees, the ratio of clinical supervisors must be more than one per trainee.
- Clinical supervisors who meet the following clinical supervisor requirements
  - the supervisor must be a senior gastroenterology physician or surgeon, with credentials from an appropriate professional body to provide gastrointestinal endoscopy, and have
    - dedicated training and mentoring time
    - capacity to provide 1:1 training and supervision for three training weeks per student
  - the supervisor must have completed or will successfully complete the GESA National Endoscopy Training Initiative (NETI) Train-the-Colonoscopy-Trainer program or equivalent.

The model of care and service delivery is to be submitted by close of business Thursday, 31 March 2016 to:

Dr Lesley Fleming
A/Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Email: ChiefNurse-office@health.qld.gov.au

Recruitment of candidates

Recruitment of candidates will be conducted in partnership with participating Hospital and Health Services for organisational level requirements (facilities, equipment and clinical supervision) and directly with applicants with regards to course entry requirements (experience, knowledge and capability).

The identification of potential students’ needs to be undertaken by the individual applicants themselves as well as support provided from the Hospital and Health Service.

Registered nurses who are external to Queensland Health can be considered for the training program, however during the education and training period, these nurses will need to become Hospital and Health Service employees.

The selection process will be through a centralised recruitment process. The purpose of this centralised recruitment process is to streamline applications and enable the identification of the best possible applicants for the program. Similar selection panels have been established for other professions and specialties.

Applicants willing to be considered for the program will need to complete the Nurse Endoscopy Candidate expression of interest form and submit by close of business Thursday, 31 March 2016 to:

Dr Lesley Fleming
A/Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Email: ChiefNurse-office@health.qld.gov.au

Information for candidates is available in Nurse Endoscopy Information for Nurses.
Funding allocation

Funding allocation will be dependent on individual Hospital and Health Service requirements and may include provision for:

- labour costs and expenses provided for an 18-month period during training
- nurse training and education, including course fees, workshop and hands-on course fees and associated travel and accommodation costs
- train-the-trainer program fees for the supervisor and/or clinical lead and travel costs associated with the training program
- purchase of endoscopy equipment (i.e. magnetic imager scope and guide) required for training purposes, which will be retained by the HHS on completion of the project
- project leadership and management, which will be provided by OCNMO
- service level agreements (which will be developed by funding Window 3, 2016).

What you need to do

01/ Initiate discussion
Discuss this program with your HHS Chief Executive and Executive Team (representatives from OCNMO are available to assist with this discussion at your request).

02/ Planning
Develop a plan for the Second Semester 2016 intake. Work with clinical teams to strategise models of service delivery.

03/ Advertise
Advertise program to appropriate nursing staff and seek appropriate interest.

04/ Submit
Complete the Nurse Endoscopy Hospital and Health Services expression of interest form and submit by 31 March 2016.

Complete the Nurse Endoscopy Candidate expression of interest form and submit by 31 March 2016.
More information

About Nurse Endoscopy

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About the Masters Course

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