Allied health clinical leader

Dietitian first

gastroenterology clinic
Drivers for change

• Need to improve gastroenterology outpatient services
  – reduction of Category 2 and Category 3 waiting lists
  – improve access and patient journeys

• Demonstrate Dietitians ability to effectively act in Extended scope roles within Allied Health
Key elements of role

• Dietitian provides comprehensive clinical and dietary assessment and intervention to eligible gastroenterology patients
• Role undertakes request and interpretation of relevant pathology and other diagnostic tests
• Patients referred for gastroenterology opinion or review, or are discharged directly back to community-based services
• Under governance of gastroenterologist or surgeon
Evidence of impact

• Pilots at Bundaberg and Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital evaluated the leader role via:
  – staff and patient surveys
  – pre/post intervention measures of waiting lists, patients seen, patients removed from wait lists
Intermediate outcomes: Bundaberg
(12 month pilot underway)

- A predetermined range of gastro diagnosis (IBD, IBS, Coeliac, GORD) expedited from Category 2 and 3 waiting list by the dietitian
- 63 patients offered an appointment to this clinic, in the initial 6 months of the pilot
- 43 new patients seen by the Dietitian
- Mean waiting time significantly lower (p=0.016) in the dietetic triage group compared to the pre-diet clinic group
- On average patients were seen 23 days earlier
- Patient satisfaction was excellent
Results at 6 months - Bundaberg

43 pts seen initially by dietitian

- 15 (35%) seen, treated and discharged by Dietitian alone
- 30 (70%) triaged directly by Dietitian to endoscopy
- 5 (11%) referred back to the Consultant for R/V
Outcomes: Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital

- 11 patients reviewed by dietitian over 12 months
- On average patients seen 250 days earlier (29 days dietitian clinic vs 286 days for Category 2 vs 312 days for Category 3)
- 100% of patients discharged to community services and declined gastroenterology consultation
- High level of patient and stakeholder satisfaction