

02 June 2017

To,

Mr. James Downie

Chief Executive Officer

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority

Re: IHPA Work Program 2017-18. Draft for Public Comment

Dear Mr. Downie,

Thank you for your and the teams ongoing and commendable efforts in determining NEP and NEC and setting NWAU for ED, Emergency Service, Intensive care, Admitted acute, subacute, non-acute and non-admitted patients.

Within the ABF funding, including admitted and non-admitted classifications, the funding system limits itself to paying a fee to the provider for service and does not currently encourage effective handover of care. I acknowledge that the process of handover is covered in National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

It is clearly evidenced in literature from within our country and in international health system models that, unless there is a financial driver, integration of health systems do not occur. As care is not effectively handed over from Local Health Districts to general practice, patients/consumers will continue to represent back in the emergency.

The only classifications that barely facilitate handover of care or collaboration between LHD's and general practice is under Non Admitted Patient T2 classification under Telehealth (20.55, 40.61) and Hospital avoidance programs (40.58).

While integration of systems across health and social systems of care is ideal, I acknowledge the funding complexities across the health and social care systems and appreciate that the matter of integrating health and social system of care is a long term discussion.

However in the short term, there should be a proportion of NWAU that is assigned to each admitted patient classification towards handover of care. NWAU's assigned to the handover activity will facilitate a change in behaviour nationally to bring acute and general practice closer ensuring continuity of care for patients.

I request that IHPA considers the matter of hand over of care in the Work Program and consider allocating NWAU towards handover of care for the next few years to facilitate a behaviour change across the country.

Regards

Micheal Kundukulam
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