

Boldly changing AYA healthcare

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Background:

The Young Adult Support Unit (YASU) which is part of the Mater Young Adult Health Centre (MYAHC) has employed a Clinical Nurse Consultant to provide holistic medical care to young people. The CNC role offers inpatient and outpatient support. The CNC provides clinical consultancy in the areas of AYA health. However, they also screen for psychosocial difficulties and use this information to help better understand a young person's health difficulties.

Approach:

The main difference in the approach of the CNC is that he does not require a referral to see patients while they are admitted to hospital. Traditional care pathways in inpatient care usually require a referral to be made then considered by the treating team before the patient is seen. With this CNC role, a daily screen is undertaken for all AYA patients in the hospital before opportunistic reviews are undertaken. Often a HEEADSS assessments is undertaken and a review of the patient's medical history is conducted.

Outcome:

- Increase in referrals for AYA's to access ongoing outpatient psychosocial support from YASU
- Positive qualitative feedback from young people about receiving care from CNC
- Increase in holistic care being provided to young people during hospital admissions

Innovation and Significance:

This CNC role is innovative because it is informed by principles of AYA care. It is not a solely medical or mental health role – rather it seeks to help hospital teams work more efficiently with young people as well as helping young people to better engage with their medical care.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:
