Smoking Cessation Clinical Pathway

Tobacco smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable illness and premature death in Queensland.

Metro South Health is committed to the Statewide smoke-free initiative and is implementing the Smoking Cessation Clinical Pathway – an evidence based support tool for staff to assist patients who smoke.

The pathway:

- Ensures a focus on patient outcomes
- Supports the implementation of evidence-based practice
- Reduces duplication by using a standardised approach to clinical care and documentation
- Improves clinical processes to reduce the risk of patient complications and re-admission.

The completion of the pathway on admission will allow clinicians to provide immediate treatment for patients that have been assessed as nicotine dependent and are at risk of nicotine withdrawal.

All clinical staff should ask patients – “Have you smoked in the past 30 days?” If the answer is yes, you should complete the Smoking Cessation Clinical Pathway and, if needed, treat nicotine dependent smokers with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and/or refer the patient to Quitline.

Our goal is for the clinical pathway to be completed for all patients who present as smokers, at all Metro South Health hospitals.

Asking patients about their smoking status is a multidisciplinary responsibility and helping patients who smoke to cope with their nicotine withdrawal during their hospital stay is an essential element of patient care. If your patient does smoke, the clinical pathway form only takes a few minutes to complete.

For more information, see your ward pharmacist or visit: