

Title	Improving continuity with a Nurse Practitioner model between inpatient and home based palliative care settings.
Number	57
Authors	Stacey Palfreyman, Melbourne City Mission Palliative Care Margaret O'Connor, Melbourne City Mission Palliative Care
Abstract	<p>Background: The Nurse Practitioner (NP) role is relatively new in Australia; national registration was achieved in 2010. Most Australian NP literature describes work to establish models and scope of practice. There is little Australian literature on NPs working in palliative care, however there are a significant number working in a variety of settings. This paper reports on the establishment, provision and six month evaluation of a NP model, shared between inpatient and community palliative care services, developed to enhance client care between hospital and home; enhance professional relationships; and facilitate effective discharges and admissions from one service to another.</p> <p>Design and setting: All patients referred to the NP were included. Evaluation involved analysis of patient records, records of the NP and client and carer feedback, in comparison to KPIs. A template enabled consistent data to be prospectively collected and recorded electronically. Analysis of qualitative data identified trends, commonalities and differences. Quantitative data such as length of hospital admission was summarised by mean, standard deviation and median values, and presented descriptively. Results indicate that the NP model has contributed to earlier discharges from, and fewer admissions to hospital. Opportunities to strengthen professional relationships through clinical collaboration and educational opportunities continue.</p>