

## **LOCAL PALLIATIVE CARE GRANTS PROGRAM – ROUND 1**

**Name of project:** Optimising transition care through targeted assessment and information exchange.

**Organisation:** Sydney West Cancer Network – Sydney West Area Health Service  
Westmead Hospital  
PO Box 533  
WESTMEAD NSW 2145

**Duration of the Project:** October 2006 – April 2007

**Project Summary:** Development, implementation and evaluation of information and tools (Transition Pathways) to support palliative care clinicians, patients and their families in facilitating discharge home.

### **Activities:**

To undertake a systemic needs assessment of palliative care support services in Sydney West Area Health Service in both government and non-government sectors:

- undertake a retrospective audit and follow-up of 50 clients discharged to the community;
- develop a Transition Pathway to support clinicians, patients and their families in facilitating discharge;
- develop both a Patient and health Professional version of the Transition pathway;
- implement the Transition pathway in 200 consecutive clients discharged from hospitals in Western Sydney;
- undertake process and outcome evaluation of the Transition Pathway using both qualitative and quantitative methods; and
- develop quality indicator to monitor the success of transition to home.

### **Results**

Baseline data item generation were developed and pilot testing of the Clinician Pathway was accomplished. The pathway was well received by clinical staff.

Participants reported better access – greater emphasis on and understanding of discharge procedures resulting in more timely referrals.

### **Resources produced**

Patient and Health Professional Transition Pathway documentation.

### **Comment**

The project has had a positive impact on patients referred to palliative care. However, the implementation of pathways has had a limited benefit. Palliative care patients have complex care needs that are partially addressed by a pathway. The care delivered to palliative care patients needs to be as individualized as each patient.