

Question on Notice

No. 1339

Asked on 10 November 2022

MR R STEVENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Audit Office Report 8: 2021-22 (improving access to specialist outpatient services), and the Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) website identified in the report—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many specialties are now covered by the website, (b) the percentage of all conditions now covered by the website for patients waiting for a specialist outpatient appointment, (c) how many users accessed the website in June 2022, (d) the initial project budget of the CPC website project and (e) total expenditure to date on the CPC website project?

ANSWER

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) are clinical decision support tools that will help ensure patients referred for public specialist outpatient services in Queensland are assessed in order of clinical urgency.

CPC will be used by both referring practitioners when referring into the Queensland public hospital system and Queensland public specialist outpatient services when determining how quickly the patient should be seen (urgency category).

CPC have been developed to help ensure patients have an improved specialist outpatient experience. They aim to support:

- equitable assessment of patients regardless of where they live in Queensland
- specialist outpatient appointments that are delivered in order of clinical urgency
- patients are ready for care at their first specialist outpatient appointment
- improved referral and communication processes between referrers and Specialist Outpatient Services.

It is important to note that CPC do not replace clinical judgement and aim to assist with determining the most appropriate treatment or health pathway for a patient. They have been developed by clinicians for clinicians to improve the patient experience.

I have been advised by the department, in relation to the CPC website, of the following:

- a) There are 28 specialty groups and 415 conditions currently covered by the CPC. (The 2021 audit report listed 29 specialty groups, however the endoscopy specialty group was subsequently merged with the Gastroenterology specialty group, hence the reduction by one.)
- b) The percentage of all conditions now covered by the website for patients waiting for a specialist outpatient appointment
 - The Specialist Outpatient Data Collection does not currently capture condition level data so cannot assess percentage of conditions covered. Condition level data will be able to be identified in the future as hospital systems mature.
 - CPC are developed at the request of and in collaboration with the clinical workforce therefore the conditions that most require coverage by the CPC are self-identified by the clinical workforce and it would not be appropriate because of resource implications to cover every condition.
- c) 3,511 unique users accessed the CPC website in June 2022 across 8,708 sessions. However, the CPC can be accessed from several sources and therefore this number is not reflective of the total number of users accessing the CPC.
- d) The CPC website was created using existing internal funding.
- e) Internal resources are allocated on an ad-hoc basis, within normal business activity, to support updating information on the CPC website as new evidence emerges and new CPC are developed. Ongoing contribution to the development and review of CPC by hospital and health service clinicians is provided as in-kind contribution within their Queensland Health employment and unable to be specifically quantified.