

Duodopa Clinical Specialist

Job Purpose and Scope:

The Duodopa Clinical Specialist supports quality use of medicines through advising and educating health care professionals, patients and carers during both initiation and maintenance phases of Duodopa (Levodopa Carbidopa Intestinal Gel) treatment.

In the hospital setting, during the initial dose titration, the Duodopa Clinical Specialist regularly assesses a patient's response to therapy and liaises with the treating team with the aim of improving the patient's motor function impacted by their Parkinson's disease. During this phase, the Duodopa Clinical Specialist educates the patient/carer and other individuals involved in the patient's care such as; aged care facilities, community nurses, family members or friends. It is expected that where required, they attend the Naso-jejunal tube / PEG-J tube insertion to ensure correct device use and placement.

Post discharge from hospital, the Duodopa Clinical Specialist provides structured follow up care focusing on pump, tubing and stoma management. On call support and troubleshooting is also provided via the Duodopa Clinical Specialist function. It is important to ensure that the service provided under the Patient Support Program and the Duodopa Clinical Specialist's role does not replace the overall responsibility of patient management, which lies with the treating doctor / team.

To achieve expected activity levels in a timely manner, whilst maintaining a high standard of task execution:

- Through effective communication within the field
- Through effective time management
- Through demonstrating best practice at all times
- By supporting the initiation and management of patients on Duodopa, by providing high quality clinical care.
- By providing support within the specific geographical area as agreed (with the potential of interstate travel) to ensure effective care for Duodopa patients
- By maintaining local policies and documentation relating to initiation / maintenance phases of patients on Duodopa
- By providing direct patient care for patients in both the initiation / maintenance phases of therapy.
- By providing an appropriate level of monitoring and reporting for the service as directed.

Core Job Responsibilities

- To maintain the local procedure for the initiation of Duodopa in appropriate patients which includes:
 - The treatment journey
 - Treating centre, patient and carer education
 - Ensuring appropriate patient enrolment / consent into the Patient Support Program
 - Device management including NJ and PEG-J placement procedures
 - Acquiring the medication and the associated delivery system components
 - Discharge process arrangements and follow up
- To deliver high quality care to patients where the decision to prescribe Duodopa has been made by the treating Doctor, including:
 - Communication with patient and all relevant parties involved in the process
 - Titration of medication dose determined in consultation with treating Doctor
 - Support of patient discharge arrangements as required
 - Follow up at home and/or via telephone as required
 - Accurately document patient's activity interactions as appropriate

- Educate and support patients and Health Care Professionals, including nurses regarding Duodopa therapy.
 - To support and provide guidance to Radiologists/ Gastroenterologists /endoscopy clinical staff in the placement of the NJ / PEG-J tubes.
- To provide an appropriate level of monitoring and reporting for the service:
 - Provide regular reports to the client as appropriate
 - Provide timely communication to client on initiations, discontinuations and procedure outcomes
 - Collect appropriate service data for the support of the service locally and nationally
 - Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality at all times
 - Ensure records and databases relating to the Patient Support Program activity are up to date at all times
 - To cover any support helpline as required as part of the nurse team on call rotation (if applicable)
 - Respond to and resolve any problems resulting from a helpline call
 - Inform relevant HCPs regarding a helpline call and its content and if further follow up is required
 - Feedback any helpline calls to colleagues
 - Document helpline calls in secure client databases ensuring appropriate confidentiality is maintained
 - Ensure Adverse event and Product Quality Complaint reporting are met within specified timelines.
- Skills, Education Experience and Knowledge
 - Strong interpersonal and communication skills
 - Strong clinical skills
 - Ability to organise own workload
 - Ability to work to tight deadlines
 - Cooperative, flexible and a team player
 - Adaptable to different working environments
 - Demonstrates initiative and work commitment
 - Able to develop own skills and knowledge
 - High customer orientation
 - Experience in facilitating / delivering secondary care services
 - Ideally, experience in clinical training of nurses and the delivery of educational presentations
 - Currently registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) whereby practice is permitted anywhere in Australia
 - Registered Nurse
 - Depth and breadth of experience post registration with experience in primary and secondary care
 - Proven IT literacy
 - Demonstrated competency in training, facilitation and presentations
 - Knowledge of relevant Codes and Guidelines as approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia