

HCH Braeside Palliative Care

Inpatient Admission Criteria

Policy

Last Review date: 20/03/2025

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Portfolio Responsible: Hammond Health

Version: 3.0

1. Purpose

To outline the admission criteria for palliative care patients to be safely admitted to Braeside Palliative Care Unit Hospitals

2. Scope

All HammondCare Health Staff.

3. Background

Braeside Palliative Care Unit (BPCU) is a 20-bed subacute inpatient unit. This is a Schedule 3 affiliated hospitals situated in the suburbs of Prairiewood. Braeside is operated and owned by HammondCare and contracted by South Western Sydney LHD to provide public palliative care inpatient services.

Braeside provide short-term holistic care for patients with life-limiting illnesses at various times in their illness trajectories and can accommodate public, private and DVA patients.

Braeside BPCU provide comprehensive medical, nursing and allied health care based on the unique needs of the patients, carer and family when facing a life- limiting prognosis including:

- Symptom and pain management
- Social and emotional needs
- Providing high quality care for patients towards the end of life
- Assisting in the transition from hospital to home.

4. Policy

4.1 Admission Criteria Inclusions

Patients with active, progressive, life limiting illness and complex physical, psychological or spiritual needs.

Patients who are approaching or have clearly entered the terminal phase of their illness.



Aspects of care that can be provided include:

- Analgesia which can be administered via the oral, sublingual, subcutaneous, and transdermal routes or delivered via infusion devices. - Antibiotics can be administered via the oral, intravenous or intramuscular route.
- Intravenous bisphosphonates, and oral chemotherapy agents can be given.
- Transfusions of packed red blood cells can be given on weekdays during office hours when the SRMO or registrar is present on the unit. Usually one or two units are administered daily as the cross matched blood must be delivered.
- Interventional radiological procedures can be organised at Fairfield or Liverpool Hospital where clinically appropriate (e.g. ascitic drainage)
- There is the nursing capability to manage PICC lines, ports, pleurex catheters, ascitic drainage via abdominal ports, tracheostomies, IDCs, SPCs, continuous bladder irrigation, PEG feeding, bariatric patients and complex wound management.
- Transport to radiotherapy can be provided from Braeside provided the patient is able to sit in a wheelchair for the duration of the transport.

4.2 Exclusion Criteria

Patients requiring a secure environment (wandering or aggressive) as security is not on site.

Paediatric patients (up to 18 years of age).

Patients who do not have specialist palliative care needs and require long term care.

Patients requiring acute hospital care:

- Intravenous chemotherapy,
- Platelet transfusions,
- TPN,
- Invasive procedures
- Medically acutely unwell where goals of care require acute hospital care.

4.3 Triage Process

Priority is given to community admissions, actively dying patients or patients from any location who have multiple or unusually severe problems: physical or psychological.

4.4 Admission and Referral Process

All hospital/community patients require a referral by a specialist palliative care service from the relevant hospital/community area.

Direct admissions from the community must be discussed with the inpatient team.

Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) or delegate in consultation with the Palliative Care Consultant arranges the admission to Braeside PCU and coordinates the waiting list.

Priority is given to the SWSLHD community and acute care hospital transfers:

SWSLHD:

- Liverpool
- Fairfield



- Bankstown
- Campbelltown
- Bowral
- Camden

4.5 Discharge Planning

Discharge is based on clinical stability, explicit care goals and plan for ongoing care.

5. Risk Assessment/ Key Performance Indicators

Appropriate and safe admissions to Braeside Palliative Care Unit

6. Related Documents

6.1 Legislative and other external references

- *Nil*

6.2 Policies

- *HCH Admission Policy*

7. Consultation Groups

- HC Palliative Care Staff Specialist- Braeside

8. Date for Next Review

- March 2023