

NEURO-ONCOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER

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Neurosurgeons

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What is a Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner?

The Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner is responsible for supervising and coordinating your care during all of the various stages of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

A Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner is a Registered Nurse who has sub-specialised and completed a Master of Nursing Science.

The position requires extensive experience in Neurosurgery Nursing and care of patients with brain and spinal tumours.

The Nurse Practitioner role extends beyond that of a Registered Nurse and includes:

- Advanced clinical assessment
- Initiating and interpreting diagnostic tests
- Prescribing medications
- Arranging referrals to health professionals

Our Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner works in collaboration with Neurosurgeons and other medical specialists, adding nursing expertise to our coordinated approach to patient care.

The BrizBrain & Spine practice leads the Neurosurgical community in seeking this accreditation and supporting the role to meet our high standard of clinical practice.

What will the Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner do for me?

Our Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner will visit you and your family during your admission to hospital. She will co-ordinate your care between your treating medical specialists, hospital ward staff and other treatment providers such as physiotherapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists etc.

Our Nurse Practitioner will provide education and support to you and your family and will also be available to you following discharge from hospital should you require additional assistance or support. A formal follow-up consultation after discharge will be arranged.

Why is it so important for me to have this nurse care for me?

Research Studies and published clinical guidelines¹ have shown improved health outcomes for brain tumour patients that receive individual nursing care during the time of their treatment.

Our commitment to this role remains steadfast and we believe it is a key feature of our clinical services.

Many research studies involving both patients and carers, as well as health professionals, all recommend that a key health professional be assigned to patients diagnosed with brain tumours to assist them through their treatment.

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What cost will I incur from the Nurse Practitioner?

The Department of Health and Ageing's accreditation of the role has allowed the Nurse Practitioner to bill in their own right for outpatient services, excluding hospital inpatient services.

The Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) of items does not cover the cost of providing inpatient services. The Federal Government has not included a rebate for inpatient support, an activity critically central to the role.

The neurosurgical, medical and patient community continue to lobby for a change to the billing rebates. As a result, patients will incur an out of pocket expense for communication with the Nurse Practitioner while in hospital.

In relation to post-operative consultations, the practice will bill for the Nurse Practitioner attendances in accordance with the bulk-billed fees for the related MBS items. The practice will charge an administration fee of \$10 to cover the operating costs in supporting the role. This will not include the initial review following hospital discharge, which is included in the inpatient service fee.

To discuss these costs further, please contact BrizBrain & Spine on 07 3833 2500.

¹ Australian Cancer Network Adult Brain Tumour Guidelines Working Party. Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Adult Gliomas: Astrocytomas and Oligodendrogliomas. Cancer Council Australia, Australian Cancer Network and Clinical Oncological Society Of Australia Inc., Sydney, 2009.

Clinic Locations

- **The Wesley Hospital.** Evan Thomson Building, Level 10, Chasely Street, Auchenflower Qld 4066
- **St Andrew's Medical Suites.** Suite 3, Level 7, 457 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill Qld 4000
- **Fortus Medical Suites.** Suite 2, 832 Gympie Road, Chermiside Qld 4032
- **United Medical Suites.** Shop 2B, Hilltop Shopping Centre, 71 Astley Parade, North Lakes QLD 4509
- **St Vincents Medical Centre.** Scott Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350
- **The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital.** Medical Centre, Syd Lingard Drive, Buderim Qld 4556
- **Mater Private Rockhampton.** Ward Street, Rockhampton Qld 4700
- **Tweed Day Surgery.** Suite 5 - Level 1. 38 – 44 Boyd Street, Tweed Heads NSW 2485
- **St Vincents Hospital.** Suite 2, Level 1, 20 Dalley Street, Lismore NSW 2480