

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are Optimal Cancer Care Pathways?

The Optimal Cancer Care Pathways (OCPs) are national guides that describe the best possible cancer care for patients with specific types of cancer.

The pathways describe the key stages in a patient's cancer journey, from diagnosis to survivorship or end-of-life care, and the expected optimal care at each stage to ensure all people diagnosed with cancer get the best care, regardless of where they live or have cancer treatment.

Optimal Cancer Care Pathways have been developed for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Acute myeloid leukaemia
- Basal cell carcinoma or Squamous cell carcinoma
- Breast
- Cancer of Unknown Primary
- Cervical
- Colorectal
- Endometrial
- Head and Neck
- Hepatocellular
- High-grade glioma
- Hodgkin lymphoma and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- Lung
- Melanoma
- Oesophagogastric
- Ovarian
- Pancreatic
- Prostate
- Sarcoma

2. Who created the OCPs?

The Optimal Cancer Care Pathways were developed as part of a national work plan to improve cancer care across Australia, led by the National Cancer Expert Reference Group (NCERG). Each pathway was developed by an expert group including clinicians specialising in the treatment of the particular tumour, GPs and consumers, in conjunction with consultation with medical colleges and peak health organisations.

The OCPs have been endorsed by the National Cancer Expert Reference Group, Cancer Australia and Cancer Council Australia.

3. What are OCP HealthPathways?

The OCP HealthPathways project aims to translate the select stages of the OCPs relevant to general practice into HealthPathways to support the adoption of OCPs in general practice. This equates to translating stages 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 resulting in suite of pathways that focus on prevention, diagnosis and investigations, referral

to cancer specialists and into acute care, the acute-primary care interface, and the care and support of cancer patients' post-treatment. All 19 OCPs will be translated into HealthPathways, providing GPs with a dynamic resource that reflects local context and realities (including service gaps, policy and referral information), all in one place.

4. How are the OCP HealthPathways being developed?

To support the aim of the OCPs and ensure consistency and equity in cancer care across the state, statewide HealthPathways are being developed. Each PHN will be responsible for developing 1-2 OCP suite/s on behalf of the state. The statewide pathways will be uniform across all PHN catchments with only minor variations added to reflect local service availability and/or to address identified patient needs.

Each PHN will develop localised referral pages which map the local cancer related services within your PHN for each of the OCPs being developed in this project.

5. How long until all OCP HealthPathways are available?

There are currently 12 OCP HealthPathways available on the Victorian HealthPathways (or equivalent) sites, with the final 7 OCP HealthPathways being published in October 2020. This means that all 19 OCPs will be translated into OCP HealthPathways and available to GPs by the end of October 2020.

6. I can't find a pathway specifically for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OCP.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OCP has been embedded across all of the OCP HealthPathways to assist in the provision of culturally safe care. A small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at the top of the page signifies whether a pathway has been embedded with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OCP. All pathway suites for cancer types where the incidence rates are comparatively high to non-Indigenous populations have been embedded with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OCP, for example breast cancer and head and neck cancer.

7. How do I access the OCP HealthPathways?

You will need a login to access HealthPathways. Get in contact with your local PHN to request a login or visit vtphna.org.au/carepathways-and-referral

8. Who can I contact for more information about this project?

Get in touch with our statewide coordination team:

Statewide Project Coordinator – Roxanne Adams roxanne.adams@nwmphn.org.au

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