

FACTSHEET

MENTAL HEALTH - GENERAL PRACTITIONER PARTNERSHIP

1. Overview

The Mental Health General Practitioner (GP) Partnership programme was augmented in 2012 by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) to engage and enhance the capability of GPs to manage new and/or existing patients with stable mental conditions in the community. It is part of the national programme, combined with other healthcare agencies' programme for GPs recruitment on mental health.

2. Aims

- Enable GPs to provide more holistic care to patients with chronic physical and/or mental illnesses, as referred by public hospitals.
- Encourage patients to seek help early as they are more familiar with their neighbourhood GPs and to encourage them to continue with follow-up consultations.

3. Services

- The GP Partnership programme complements AIC's Integrated Mental Health and Dementia Network, which consists of outreach and engagement teams, allied-health led teams and physician-led teams to provide care and support for clients in the community.
- Clients with mental and chronic physical conditions will be able to seek holistic treatment. These mental health conditions include psychosis, depression, dementia or anxiety so that care can be right-sited within the GP network.
- Clients with mental health needs can be referred from public hospitals to GPs for management upon discharge. GPs can also refer patients to community mental health/social care partners for other form of services linkages such as psychotherapy, counselling and long-term support.
- It provides customised training to GPs on common mental health conditions and how to manage them in the community.

4. Programme Development

Mental Health in the Community

AIC targets to engage and recruit 150 GPs under the programme by FY2017. Presently, 122 GPs have been recruited to see mental health patients referred from public hospitals. 48 of them are also willing to see new mental health patients.

Special Interest Group (Mental Health)

In supporting and sustaining the interest of the GP, AIC formed a Special Interest Group (Mental Health) for GPs in 2014 for the following objectives:

- Champions and builds a supportive network for mental health by encouraging GPs to seek and recruit more of their peers to manage persons with mental conditions or who are at risk
- Acting as a peer-support platform to facilitate the learning and sharing of best practices in the management of clients with mental care needs
- Develop a standardised curriculum to enhance the skills and knowledge of GPs in mental health areas and a structured clinical protocol to enable and empower GP to better manage clients in the community setting.