
Rapid access atrial fibrillation clinics

Information pack for applicants

We are looking to partner with regional health services to pilot five rapid access atrial fibrillation clinics to improve atrial fibrillation care and prevent avoidable strokes for regional Victorians.

Regional Victorians who present to participating health services (or their partner sites) with atrial fibrillation will be referred within seven to 14 days from discharge to a weekly rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic. With better access to specialist clinics in regional Victoria, it is expected that atrial fibrillation management and prescription of oral anticoagulants will improve, reducing atrial fibrillation burden and preventing avoidable strokes.

Participating health services will offer the weekly rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic through face to face and telehealth consultations.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a regional Victorian public health service.

The rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic will be implemented by the health service at their site. The clinic will be available to patients in the region through referral from their hospital, other health services and primary health care services.

Participating health services in the project are required to have an emergency department and the following capabilities:

- Accessible and affordable echocardiography services.
- IT infrastructure to support telehealth delivery.

What will we provide?

During the project period, we will support participating health service to implement the weekly rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic by:

- funding of approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 over the project period (approx. two years) to pilot the clinic. This is a contribution to the proposed staffing costs to deliver the clinic. All other associated clinic costs will be incurred by the participating health service
- supporting project leads in development of the rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic and the operating procedures
- facilitating peer-to-peer learning sessions to allow for collaboration and knowledge building across the five pilot sites
- measurement and project evaluation support.

What we expect of our partners

- Collaboration with emergency department and medical wards in your hospital and other health services to promote the clinic and referrals.
- Actively partner with other health services and primary health care services in the region to drive referrals to clinic.
- Commitment to drive referrals to rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic from your health service and your regional health network.
- Agreement to secure appropriate staffing to deliver the clinic based on the proposed staffing structure of:
 - 0.5 FTE to 0.8 FTE nursing staff to manage the operations and reporting requirements for project
 - 0.2 FTE cardiologist or general physician to provide atrial fibrillation care
 - 0.2 FTE clerical support.
- Use of current IT infrastructure, hardware and software to support high-quality telehealth care.
- Develop project implementation plan with local governance structures.
- Nominate a project lead for the project.
- Commitment to engage with consumers when planning, implementing, and evaluating the project.
- Commitment to implement the rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic within agreed timeframes.
- Attendance at peer-to-peer learning sessions with willingness to share lessons learnt and adopt continuous improvements.
- Commitment to meet reporting requirements.

Why apply to join this project

Atrial fibrillation is a common cardiac arrhythmia condition that increases the risk of stroke by nearly fivefold and contributes significantly to health system costs. With appropriate prescription of oral anticoagulants, the incidence of stroke can be dramatically reduced by 60 to 65 per cent.

A recent Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) data linkage investigation revealed only one in three Victorians admitted with atrial fibrillation received anticoagulants one month post hospitalisation, and 16.3 per cent and 43.5 per cent were readmitted to hospital within 30 days and one year respectively.

The rapid access atrial fibrillation clinics will provide timely and focused specialist care to those diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. The project aims to establish a collaboration across regional health networks to provide care to patients with atrial fibrillation through implementation of a rapid access atrial fibrillation clinic in the region.

How to apply

Please submit the application form to cardiac.clinicalnetwork@safercare.vic.gov.au by **25 August 2021**.

More information

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