

# Information

## Parkinson's Nurse Specialist Service



## **What is the nurse specialist service?**

- The Nurse Specialist Service, introduced in 1998, is an initiative of Parkinson's Western Australia.
- Nurse specialists are employed to cover the Perth metropolitan area.
- Regional areas are visited in collaboration with local health professionals.
- The Service is funded by the Department of Health WA, Parkinson's Western Australia and charitable trusts.
- The Nurse Specialist Service is a free service.
- The Nurse Specialist Service operates Monday - Friday during business hours. It is not to be considered an emergency service.

## **Do I need a referral?**

An open referral system is in place. You may self-refer to the service or, with your permission, a family member may make initial contact. Your general practitioner, treating medical specialist or health professional may also refer you to this service.

The only criteria for referral to the service is a medical diagnosis of Parkinson's or related conditions, for example, Multi System Atrophy, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Cortico Basal Degeneration.

## **Where will I see the nurse specialist?**

The Nurse Specialist Service is community based and person centred, most visits will be made to your home. The nurse will visit residential care facilities as required.

HealthDirect calls can be arranged if necessary.

## **Is this service available to people living in regional areas?**

The Perth based Nurse Specialist Service is available throughout the metropolitan area. The Nurse Specialist Service based in Bunbury addresses the needs of people living with Parkinson's in the South West. The free call number 1800 644 189 will connect with Parkinson's Western Australia.

The Nurse Specialist can arrange a meeting at the office if contacted well in advanced.

## **How often will I see the Nurse Specialist?**

The follow-up contacts are based on the requirements of the person and the professional assessment of the nurse. There is no predetermined frequency of visits, as each person using the service is an individual and each individual's needs vary.

## **What is the role of the Nurse Specialist?**

- Home visits (home or aged care facility)
- Initial nursing assessment
- Ongoing assessment and monitoring
- Review of the environment
- Education of newly diagnosed person with Parkinson's
- Education and support for family members
- Nursing management of symptoms
- Identification and nursing management of medication side effects
- Monitoring response to medications
- Education around Device Assisted Therapies
- Advocacy
- Assistance with navigating the health, aged care and NDIS systems

## **Will my doctor be aware that I have seen the Nurse Specialist?**

Yes. With your permission, your general practitioner, treating medical specialist and other health professionals involved in your treatment will receive a report based on the nursing assessment carried out by the Nurse Specialist.

## **If my carer or partner needs respite, will the Nurse Specialist arrange this?**

No. Access to respite requires assessment by an Aged Care Team (ACAT). Many services can be accessed via My Aged Care:

[www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) or 1800 200 422



## **Do I have to be a member of Parkinson's Western Australia to use this service?**

No, however, joining Parkinson's Western Australia is encouraged as a growing membership reflects the need for ongoing services and funding. There are other benefits to becoming a member but we recognise that this is a personal choice.

## **How do I access the service?**

The most direct way is to telephone Parkinson's Western Australia on 6457 7373. The metropolitan area is divided into several catchment areas and it is vital your message includes the following:

- Name
- Telephone Number
- Suburb

The Nurse Specialist responsible for your area will return your call to arrange an appointment. Alternatively you can telephone the nurses office on 6457 7371 and we will arrange for a Nurse Specialist to return your call.

## **Privacy Policy**

Parkinson's Western Australia is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles. This legislation is designed to protect your rights with respect to personal information held by private organisations. You can contact Parkinson's Western Australia for a copy of the Privacy Policy. Further information about the Australian Privacy Principles can be obtained from The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The Niche, 11 Aberdare Road, Nedlands, WA 6009  
info@parkinsonswa.org.au  
(08) 6457 7373  
www.parkinsonswa.org.au