MRU Fact Sheet

OT Home Safety Assessments

This fact sheet has developed to assist clinicians in referring patients to SA Community Care (SACC) for occupational therapy (OT) home safety assessments to avoid a hospital admission. OT Home Safety Assessments are available 7 days a week, noting services may be limited on public holidays.

General eligibility criteria

- Medicare eligible
- without the service the patient would represent to an emergency department or not be able to be safely discharged from hospital.

OT Home Safety Assessments

- aim to address as many falls risk factors within the home as possible, making the patient as safe as possible in the short term
- may include assessment for equipment needs if that equipment is required for the patient to remain safe at home
- may include onward referrals for personal care / equipment / falls clinics / My Aged Care / other community supports

The types of patients/referrals suitable for SACC OT Home Safety assessment include:

- a patient where there has been a recent change in functional status / mobility e.g., fracture / sprain / fall where there are concerns about how the patient will manage safely at home
- recent fall and/or multiple falls in last 6 to 12 months especially where there is an indication that the home environment is contributing to the fall and concerns future falls are likely
- more likely suitable for patients that live alone or have limited community supports.

Patients not appropriate for SACC OT home safety assessment:

- patients requesting an OT assessment for home modifications e.g. grab rails, as these do not meet criteria of hospital avoidance, noting short-term equipment can be provided e.g., shower chair / toilet seat raiser in lieu of rails
- patients requiring rehabilitation or reablement programs.

How to refer

Complete an MRU Referral Form. Include as much relevant information as possible as your referral creates the 'care plan' for the communication of clinical care requirements to community-based clinicians. This form can be found on the MRU website - www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/MRU

For more information

Metropolitan Referral Unit
Integrated Care Systems
Department for Health and Wellbeing
Telephone - 1300 110 600
Email – Health.MRU@sa.gov.au
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/MRU

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