

Orientation to Remote Primary Health Care Manuals

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The remote health workforce is characterised by high turnover, low stability and high use of short-term and agency staff. This has major implications for service delivery. The orientation of new staff to remote health services has historically been poorly executed with one survey reporting that up to 70% of nurses in very remote areas stating orientation was inadequate¹.

The Remote Primary Health Care Manuals is a suite of clinical guidelines for primary health care practitioners in remote and Indigenous health services to guide clinical practice, ensuring provision of consistent high quality care. The first manuals were published in 1992 and the current edition in July 2017.

Conditions that are common and lead to high burden of disease are a focus of the manuals. A major portion of the Standard Treatment Manual is dedicated to prevention and management of chronic conditions particularly diabetes, cardiovascular and renal disease.

Over the years, remote health services and stakeholders identified an absence of standardised and appropriate orientation to the correct and proper utilisation of the manuals.

Therefore, Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association undertook production of an orientation video to the manuals to address the deficit of guidance to the correct and proper use of the manuals. The aim of the video is to improve delivery of health care in remote Australia through improved use of recommended clinical guidelines.

The Orientation to the Remote Primary Health Care Manuals video was launched at the AMSANT Leadership Conference in Alice Springs, May 2017, and is freely available online, via the Vimeo video stream site at <https://vimeo.com/218416028>

For further information please contact Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association on carpa.inc@outlook.com

¹Opie T, Lenthall S, Dollard M. Occupational stress in the remote area nursing profession. In: J Langan-Fox, C Cooper (Eds); Handbook of Stress in the Occupations. London: Edward Elgar, 2011.

