

Kidney Supportive Care Clinic

St George and Sutherland Hospitals Clinic Information Sheet

1st February 2024

Contact Numbers 8am to 4.30pm:

St George Public Hospital clinic appointments: 9113 4534 or 91132854

Sutherland Hospital clinic appointments: phone: 9113 2854 (a message can be left if no answer).

ABOUT THE CLINIC

The Kidney Supportive Care service works with the Kidney Team to provide special care for patients with kidney disease who may or may not be having dialysis but may require extra help with tough symptoms, or who feel their health is becoming worse. The clinic also supports patients and families who wish to talk about, and document their wishes for future health care, especially if they become unable to speak for themselves (this is called an **advance care plan**). These are updated yearly or as requested. Family are welcome to attend the clinic with you.

WHERE IS THE CLINIC AND WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

The **St George** Kidney Supportive Care clinic is located on **4 West**, which is on the 4th floor of the **Tower Ward Building** at St George Public Hospital, **on Tuesday afternoons**.

Sutherland Hospital clinic is held on **Friday afternoons** in the outpatient department of The Sutherland Hospital in Caringbah.

Interpreters are available by prior arrangement, so please let us know your requirements when making the appointment. **You must have a current doctor's referral addressed to Dr Frank Brennan and Dr Kelly Li (Dr Li only works at St George Hospital)**. This can be written as *indefinite* if your GP is agreeable.

WHO WILL I SEE AT THE CLINIC?

You will see the first available doctor; Dr Frank Brennan or Dr Kelly Li who are Palliative Care specialists, or the Registrar. First appointments are usually 45-60 mins as you will also meet the Nursing, Dietitian and Social Work team. Follow-up appointments are around 30mins, please allow extra time if you would like to see the Social Worker or the Dietitian.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CLINIC?

At every clinic visit the nurse will help you fill in a symptom survey so we can keep track of your progress. You will then see the first available doctor in order of appointment times. Please feel free to bring family members and ask questions during the appointment. Following your appointment a letter will be sent to your GP and kidney specialist outlining your symptom treatment plan if this is required.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I AM RUNNING LATE OR I AM TOO UNWELL TO ATTEND?

Phone the St George clinic 91134534 or the nurse directly on 0427147601 to let them know (leave a message if phone is not answered). We can provide phone consultations if required by prior arrangement. Please see your GP as soon as possible if you are unwell, or if it is a medical emergency, please call 000.