

Travelling the path together?

Early process and utilisation evaluation of HealthPathways
Barwon
and
HealthPathways Perth Central and East Metro



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Australian Government
General Practice Education
and Training Limited



Background

- What are the HealthPathways Clinical Work Groups?
- And how do they work?



Aims

- Clinical Work Groups Focus groups - explore group members' reflections on:
 - Reasons for implementation
 - Workgroup process
 - Experiences as end-users
 - Barriers and facilitators to use
 - Measuring outcome
- Survey – identify Barwon GPs':
 - Frequency of HealthPathways use in the past 12mths
 - Reasons for using/not using, any perceived benefits

Methods

- Clinical Work Groups process-Focus groups:
 - 2 focus groups: orthopaedics and paediatrics workgroups
 - Semi-structured group interview based on Hunter and New England HealthPathways evaluation
 - Coding and thematic analysis using Dedoose
- Utilisation-Survey
 - Brief paper-based survey mailed to all practices in the Barwon region

Results – Focus Groups

- 5 broad themes:
 - Purpose of HealthPathways
 - Work group process
 - Barriers and facilitators to HealthPathways use
 - Impact of HealthPathways
 - Measuring performance

Results – Focus Groups

Key findings

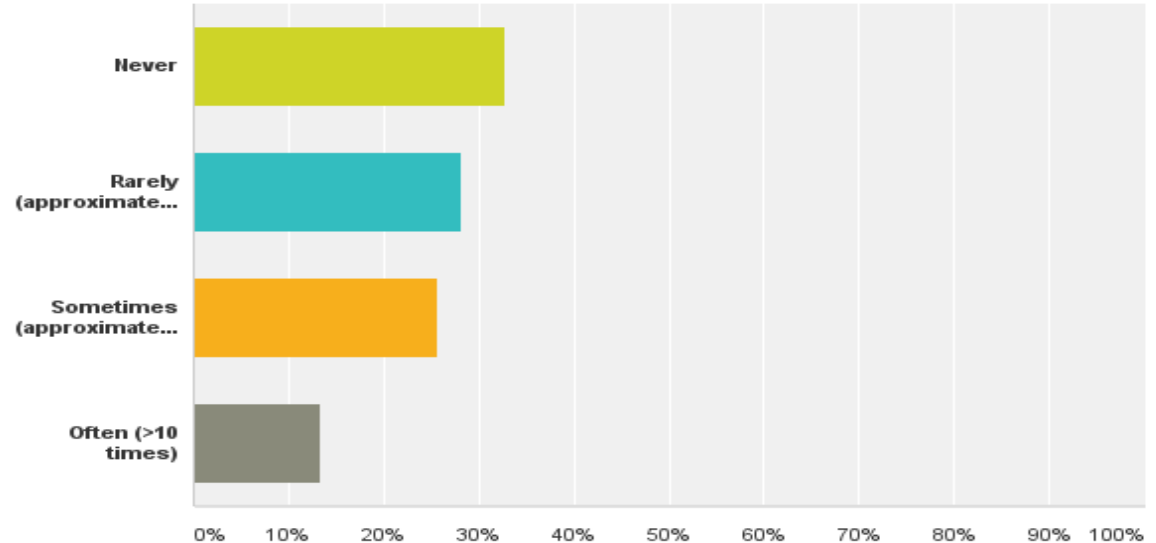
- Drivers for implementation of HealthPathways broad
- HealthPathways as a concept viewed positively
- Work group *process* itself valuable for improving relationships
- Habit major barrier to use
- Sustainability a concern
- Difficult to measure direct impact of HealthPathways

Results - Survey

- Return Rate: 36% (129 of 358 GPs).

Q6 In the past year, how often have you used HealthPathways in your clinical practice?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 1



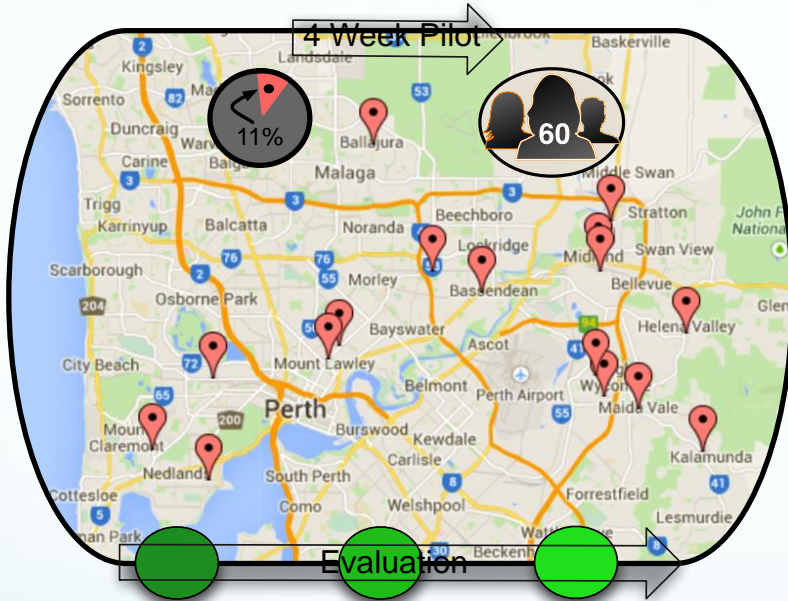
Results - Survey

- GP registrars significantly more likely to have used HealthPathways ($p=0.043$, confidence interval 95%);
- No association with age, practice size, gender, work hours
- The most common reasons for 'never' or 'rarely' using HealthPathways:
 - 'I don't think to look at HealthPathways' (62%)
 - 'I don't know what HealthPathways is' (28%).

Results - Survey

- For those who had *ever* used HealthPathways (67%):
 - 77% said the website easy to access
 - 81% said the website easy to navigate
 - 72% said the program had improved their knowledge of local services
 - 51% said it saved them time
 - 55% said it improved their confidence in managing clinical problems

Results - WA



Usage

- “Look, I’ve been a GP for over 20 years and there’s very little I haven’t seen...You give me those rare (to diagnose) pathways that I seldom use - and then I will find it [HealthPathways] useful.”

In Favour of Concept

- “Where was HealthPathways 20 years ago when I started out? ...This is fabulous”
- “...a great communication tool at all levels”

Behavioral Change

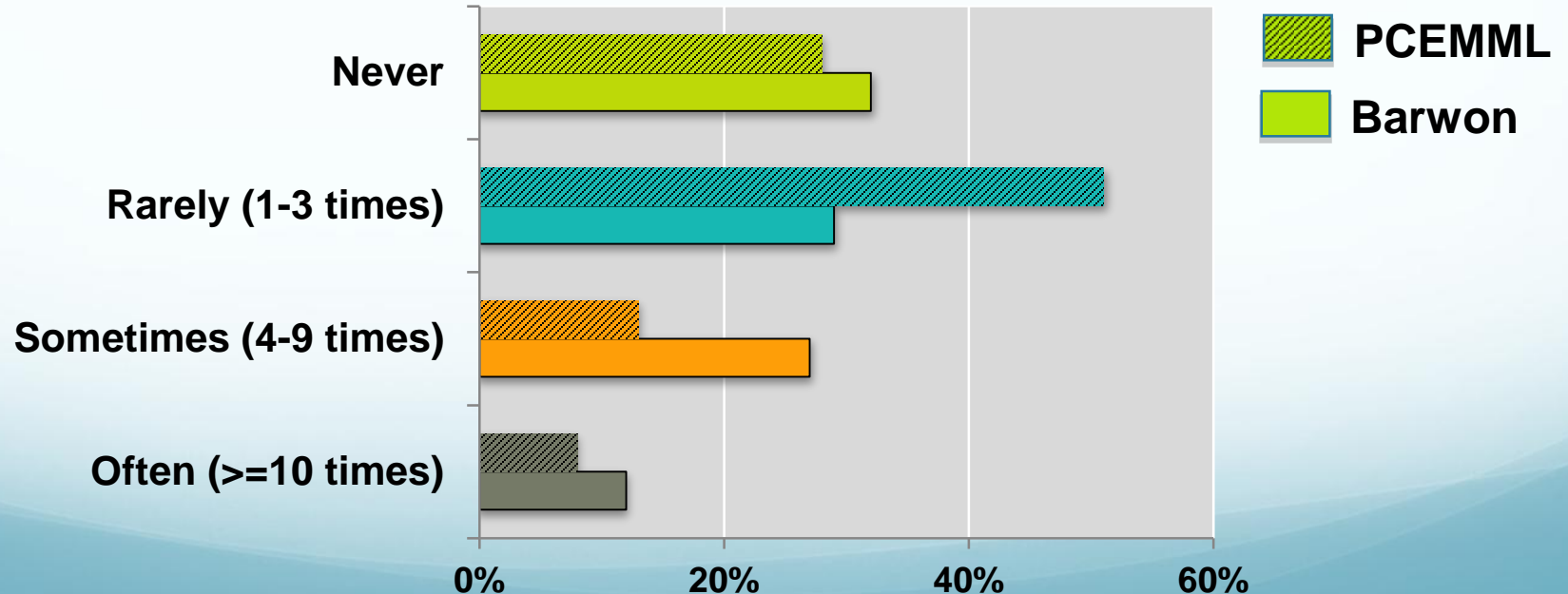
- “...out of sight out of mind”
- “I’m a creature of habit. If I don’t get reminded that it’s there, I won’t use it.”
- Lack of confidence during consultation.
- Technological barriers.
- Not all GPs are aware of added value.

Outcome Measures

- Some practices open to the idea of sharing data

Results – usage comparison

How often have you used HealthPathways in your clinical practice?



Implications

- Future challenges
 - Promotion
 - Incorporating HP into GPs' existing routines – habit major barrier in focus groups and survey
 - Sustainability of pathway writing and editing
 - Getting more GPs and specialists involved
 - Developing discharge pathways
 - Developing measures for complex outcomes
 - Life after Medicare Locals