**Title**

The value of GPs with special interests in hospital outpatient clinics

**Author and affiliations**

Dr Michelle Johnston, GP Liaison Officer Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

Dr Edwin Kruys, GP Liaison Officer Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

**Background**

Although the concept of General Practitioners with a special interest, also called ‘GPSIs’ or ‘GPwSIs’, has been explored overseas, it is relatively new in Australia. UK experiences of the model include reduced specialist waiting lists, increased patient and doctor satisfaction and reduced costs.

In some areas in Queensland, GPSIs are working in specialist outpatient departments of public hospitals. In this presentation we will share the experiences in the Sunshine Coast.

**Aims**

The primary aim of the GPSI model is to reduce waiting lists, but there are several secondary benefits such as increasing skills and knowledge in the general practice community.

**Method**

Since the end of 2017 about fifteen GPSIs have started working or are about to start at the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service in various specialist outpatient departments. They are working in close collaboration with hospital specialist consultants. The local GP Liaison Unit coordinates the program.

**Results**

The initial results show that the GPSI model is popular. We will provide more results at GP18.

**Conclusion**

Employing GPs with special interests in hospital outpatient departments offers many benefits for the healthcare system. We will discuss the experiences from the Sunshine Coast as well as some of the opportunities and challenges of the model for the near future.

**References** (If applicable)