**Collaborating Nationally to Support Clinicians Locally: Codeine Rescheduling**

Hunter New England (HNE) Health Pathways is an innovative, sustainable, whole of system solution to improve assessment and management in primary care and appropriate referral of patients to private and public specialist services. Evaluation of HNE HealthPathways and google analytics data over 6 years has shown increasing uptake and high usage by GPs.

In 2017, Australian clinicians were preparing for the impending Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) rescheduling of codeine. HNE HealthPathways collaborated with a number of local and national organisations to develop a pathway and education program that would upskill and empower GPs to manage a possible influx of patients with opioid dependence who had previously avoided presenting, having obtained codeine over-the-counter at community pharmacies.

The “Opioid Dependence and Deprescribing” HealthPathway provides GPs with assessment, management and referral advice that is evidence based, clinically appropriate, comprehensive and locally relevant. It was anticipated that educating GPs and providing them with the necessary resources will enable them to manage a significant number of opioid dependent patients in primary care. This will enable specialist services to have greater capacity to manage appropriately referred patients. The pathway will also assist allied health clinicians to support GPs and patients with their treatment plans.

Google analytic data has shown approximately 26 page views per day with peaks when it first went live in November 2017 and at the beginning of February when the rescheduling changes came into effect. Pathway feedback and evaluation of the education events has been extremely positive.

This pathway has been circulated for use by all Australian HealthPathway communities to reduce duplication of effort and provide nationally uniform advice. The pathway also includes quality patient information that has been reviewed by the HealthPathways clinical editors for GPs to use with patients or by patients via the Patient Info website.