

# The vulnerable patient in the ED – a unique NP model

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## Background:

The Department of Emergency Medicine at the RBWH in Metro North Hospital and Health Service treats up to 74 000 adult only presentations each year. The traditional model for NPs in emergency departments has been an advanced practice role operating to support Fast Track models, where NPs have been able to focus on independently assessing and treating certain categories of patients to enhance patient access to treatment in a timely manner. The RBWH DEM has a Fast Track model that has been functioning well without the support of NPs. The NP model at the RBWH has been built to fill a gap in services that can only be filled by an advanced practice nursing role – addressing the needs of vulnerable patients in ED, who require more detailed assessment, significant psychological support, education and appropriate referral in the time constraints of a busy ED. This paper will present the model, its development, data, patient and multidisciplinary team feedback from the first 12 months of the model, and plans for the future.

## Aim:

To Implement A New innovative approach to the emergency Nurse Practitioner model of care closing the gap and addressing the deficits that our vulnerable patients are exposed to in the emergency care setting. Our first Emergency Nurse Practitioner role focuses on the early pregnancy problem population, non-forensic sexual assaults and sexual health. Developing a model that not only cares for the emergency care population but leads and develops the standard of care for this important group of patients. Early intervention and priority care, implementation and development of standardised care, address biopsychological health needs that are often not met within the constraints of a busy ED and improved support and follow up care.

## Data:

Number of occasions of service

Change in LOS and representations

Links outside DEM

Increased patient satisfaction

Multidisciplinary feedback positive

Nursing Leadership development – other candidates and NP group at RBWH

**Key Words:** Nurse Practitioner, model of care, early pregnancy loss