

**Expressions of interest for Queensland Fellows and Specialists of the College in supporting a proposed ICU telemedicine service to provide peer support during COVID-19.**

The Queensland Statewide Intensive Care Clinical Network (SICCN), is seeking expressions of interest from Fellows and Specialists of the College in supporting a proposed ICU telemedicine service to provide peer support during the COVID-19 pandemic .

The SICCN views this as an opportunity for Fellows and specialists who may not be able to contribute fully to direct frontline care but are seeking a role in supporting the pandemic response. The SICCN would also welcome support from frontline specialists who are able to provide further support.

**Background**

In the evolving pandemic, the SICCN recognises that the provision of clinical peer support will be important especially in small regional/rural units with limited or no intensive care specialist staff. Peer support can assist with clinical management, transfer and resourcing/triage decisions for patients in these areas.

It is recognised that triage/resource allocation decisions are essential to ensure the optimisation of available resources and saving lives during a pandemic.

**Proposal**

The SICCN proposes to develop a 24/7 intensive care specialist consultation network to provide specialist advise and peer support, when required, for clinical management , transfer prioritisation and triage/resource allocation decisions.

The service is proposed to become operational when the critical care COVID-19 caseload threatens to exceed Queensland ICU capacity.

It is unlikely that any single Queensland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) intensive care service will have that capacity to support such an initiative alone, and such a service will need to be collaborative. The SICCN is thus seeking to recruit ICU specialists, especially those who may not be involved in frontline care – as well as frontline staff who wish to offer support when able.

**Model**

The service will utilise existing Queensland Health clinical videoconferencing systems and administrative support, including access to medical typist service to support clinicians.

Specialists will be enabled to support the service remotely with access to the Queensland Health clinical videoconference network and other clinical systems. It is envisaged that the service will be available 24/7 with an individual specialist support duty being as a 12hour shift.

**Appointment/Funding**

Specialists able to support the service will be appointed either as VMO or by extension of their existing employment agreements. Remuneration will be consistent with the terms of the Medical Officers Certified Agreement no 5 (2018)

Credentialing and indemnity will be secured through Queensland Health.

If you wish to register your interest in this initiative please forward to the [Statewide-IntensiveCare-Network@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Statewide-IntensiveCare-Network@health.qld.gov.au) your following details

Name  
Retired Y/N  
Current employer  
Hospital/Service  
email address  
mobile

If discuss the proposal further, or you would like to assist the project team to develop this initiative, please contact Dr Neil Widdicombe of the SICCN directly.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Neil Widdicombe  
Mobile: 0410 503 851  
On behalf of the SICCN 02 / 04 / 2020