

Decision Summary

Meeting Date	Friday 9 October 2009		
Application #	09007N		
Title of TCP	Naturopath for Endometriosis Clinic		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute/replacement for existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Extended use of existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
The introduction of a qualified Naturopath to support the care of women presenting to the Southern Health Endometriosis Clinic based at Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin. The naturopath will not be prescribing but will be providing dietary and exercise advice and general health measures.			
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION			
Applicant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are no conflicts of interest to declare	
Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	There are no conflicts of interest to declare	
SAFETY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Safer than current practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Equivalent to current practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Less safe than current practice	
No specific information regarding safety of lifestyle advice for women with endometriosis is available. The committee considered this to be a low risk activity.			
EFFECTIVENESS			
High quality evidence?	No		
Consistent, clinically important benefit?	Unknown		
Applicable to Southern Health?	Yes		
There is no good evidence of effectiveness for naturopathic advice in patients with endometriosis.			
COST			
Minimal costs to be covered in program budget			
CLINICAL FEASIBILITY			
Resource implications	No impact on other services		
Credentialing and competency assurance undertaken	Credentialing and competency assurance will be managed by Allied Health. Applicants for this position will require a minimum of 5 years experience working as a Naturopath.		
ISSUES RELATED TO ACCESS & EQUITY AND LEGAL & ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS			
This clinic will provide opportunities for research into the role of naturopathy in endometriosis. All research will be conducted under the governance of the Human Research and Ethics Committee.			
OTHER			
<p>The committee noted that it will be important to manage patient expectations of a naturopathic service and that clear information outlining the scope and nature of the services provided and the role of other health professionals (eg gynaecologist, GP, pharmacist) should be available to patients attending the clinic.</p> <p>The applicants have stipulated that the naturopath will not initiate discussions about naturopathic medication, however it is anticipated that patients may bring this up. In this situation the naturopath will advise that there is no evidence for safety or effectiveness.</p> <p>If patients wish to use alternative therapies, potential drug interactions should be discussed with the treating doctor.</p> <p>Education of the naturopath regarding potential drug interactions to be addressed by the Department Head or Program Director.</p>			

Final decision by the Southern Health Technology/Clinical Practice Committee	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended: Approved with no further need for assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted Recommendation – Audit: Approval subject to implementation under audit conditions. Conditions are specific to the technology.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted Recommendation – Clinical Trial: Endorsed, however approval subject to implementation in clinical trial with Southern Health Human Research and Ethics Committee approval.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted Approval – Operational Restrictions: Endorsed, however financial or operational restrictions apply.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Recommended
General Conditions	
<p>a. The Head of Department/Unit is required to notify the Secretariat of TCPC in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any change in protocol and the reason for that change together with an indication of ethical implications ▪ Adverse effects of the TCP and steps to deal with them ▪ Any unforeseen events <p>b. Adverse Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If an adverse event occurs the Head of Department/Unit must immediately notify the TCPC. <p>c. Compliance with Quality Assurance (<i>must be completed prior to commencement of the TCP at Southern Health</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicants are required to complete either the Quality Assurance supplement letter or a new Quality Assurance application (whichever is applicable) and forward to Southern Health HREC <p>d. Data Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data to be collected in all patients receiving the new TCP and reports provided to TCPC. The TCPC will provide details of data required by DHS. <p>e. Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting required at six monthly intervals; January – June and July – December; for a two year period. ▪ Reports to be forwarded to TCPC Secretariat. TCPC to forward reports to DHS. <p>f. Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the conclusion of the two year period the original application will be reviewed by the TCPC to determine if it should be considered standard practice. <p>Special Conditions</p> <p>g. Patient Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patient information to be submitted to TCPC for review prior to commencement of practice by the Naturopath ▪ Patient information should include wording around the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What you can expect from the Naturopath service ○ The Naturopath will not be prescribing “medications”, only providing diet and exercise education and advice ○ Advice should be sought from your medical team regarding the interaction of your current medications with natural therapies <p>h. Credentialing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Credentialing and professional supervision to sit with Allied Health 	

SH Policy	Quality and Risk Management	ACHS	Leadership and Management
Reviewer	Director, Centre for Clinical Effectiveness	Last review date	January 2008
Authoriser	Chair, Technology/Clinical Practice Committee	Next review date	August 2010

This hard copy may not be the latest version of this document.

Please see the Southern Health Policy and Protocol intranet site for current policies, protocols and guidelines.