Information for Medical Officers

All Medical Officers need to be familiar with the requirements of the policy directive that underpins the ‘Between the Flags’ program. The policy PD2013_049 has been updated following extensive consultation across NSW.

Summary of Medical Staff Responsibilities

Medical Officers and Members of Attending Medical Teams are to:

- Complete Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the BTF education program Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the BTF education
- Ensure the required frequency of observations is prescribed on the NSW Health Standard Observation Charts in consultation with the AMO
- Ensure any alterations to calling criteria are discussed with the AMO before being formally authorised on the NSW Health Standard Observation Charts and the rationale is documented in the patient’s health care record
- Ensure patients are attended within 30 minutes when required to undertake a Clinical Review
- Ensure Clinical Review calls attended are documented in the patient’s health care record so that patients are never left without a documented management plan and outcomes are communicated to the AMO and other clinical staff as appropriate
- Complete data collection of any Clinical Review call attended
- Communicate outcomes of Clinical Review calls to the patient and their family as appropriate
- Escalate to a Rapid Response call if they are concerned, and/or if they are unable to reverse clinical deterioration in a patient, or if a patient’s observations deteriorate.

You should also notify the patient’s Attending Medical Officer as soon as it is practicable. E.g. non-urgent- on the next clinical round, urgent- as soon as your patient is stabilised.

Where can I get further information?

- Nursing/Midwifery Unit Manager (NUM/MUM) / Department Heads
- Clinical Nurse/Midwifery Educator (CNE/CME) or Nurse/Midwifery Educator (NE/ME)
- Clinical Nurse/Midwifery Consultant (CNC/CMC)
- Allied Health Educators
- Facility Clinical Leads
- MET/BTF Coordinator
- SWSLHD Clinical Program Manager (Colette.Duff@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)