PWA PUBLICATIONS

- Guidelines for Nursing Practice in Caring for People with Parkinson’s (2007). Provides background information on Parkinson’s with emphasis on nursing challenges, with particular reference to surgical, medical, mental health and residential care.

- Guidelines for Physiotherapy Practice in Caring for People with Parkinson’s (2007). A rapid reference for physiotherapists treating people with Parkinson’s.

FREE RESOURCES

- Parkinson’s and Communication (brochure)
- Parkinson’s and Driving (brochure)
- Parkinson’s and Hospitalisation (brochure)
- Medications to be Given with Caution to people with Parkinson’s — for Health Professionals (brochure)
- Medications Used in the Treatment of Parkinson’s (brochure)
- Young Onset Parkinson’s (brochure)
- Multi System Atrophy (brochure)
- Carers (brochure)
- Cortico Basal Degeneration (brochure)
- Living Young Living Well with Parkinson’s (brochure)
- Tips for Caring for People with Parkinson’s (brochure)

In addition Information Sheets are available online www.parkinsonswa.org.au. PWA office has an extensive library which is available to members.

OVERVIEW

- The PNS service covers both the Perth metropolitan area and the South West Region.
- The PNS service has some flexibility for regional visits in collaboration with existing health professionals.
- The PNS service is funded by Department of Health WA, charitable trusts and PWA.
- The PNS service is community based providing home and/or aged care facility visits.
- There is no charge for the person with Parkinson’s.
- Educational sessions for health professionals
- The PNS service operates Monday - Friday during business hours. It is not to be considered an emergency service.

PRIVACY POLICY

PWA is bound by the National Privacy Principles introduced by the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000. This legislation is designed to protect your rights with respect to personal information held by private organisations. Contact the office for a copy of the Privacy Policy. Further information about the National Privacy Principles can be obtained from the Federal Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Compiled by Janet McLeod, Parkinson’s Nurse Specialist, Parkinson’s Western Australia Inc.
Parkinson’s is a common progressive neurological condition which has the potential to affect all aspects of life. The mission of Parkinson’s Western Australia Inc. (PWA) is to encourage, and where appropriate develop and implement programs for the cure, treatment and care of people with Parkinson’s.

The Parkinson’s Nurse Specialist (PNS) Service is an initiative of PWA and aims to:

- Provide expert advice and support to people with Parkinson’s and carers
- Promote awareness and effective management of symptoms
- Provide a point of contact for people with Parkinson’s and caregivers
- Reduce inappropriate hospital admissions
- Play a leading role in education of health professionals

**REFERRAL TO PNS SERVICE**

The only criteria for referral to the service is a medical diagnosis of Parkinson’s or related conditions, for example Multiple System Atrophy, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy or Cortico Basal Degeneration.

An open referral system is in place. This includes general practitioner, treating medical specialist, health professional or self-referral. Referrals to the PNS may be made in writing, telephone or fax. Referral forms are available on request.

Membership of PWA is not compulsory to access the service.

**NURSING INTERVENTIONS**

- Initial nursing assessment
- Ongoing monitoring
- Review of environment
- Education of newly diagnosed person with Parkinson’s
- Education and support for family members
- Nursing management of symptoms
- Identification and nursing management of medication side effects
- Monitoring response to medications
- Monitoring blood pressure
- Titration of medications (under specialist request and direction)
- Advocacy role
- Assess for NDIS in relevant age group and location

**COLLABORATION**

Following the visit the PNS will provide a comprehensive nursing report focusing on Parkinson’s related issues to the referring health professional, GP and the treating medical specialist. In residential care facilities a short interim report is entered in the resident’s notes.

Follow-up visits are made on an as needs basis which may vary in frequency.

If the person with Parkinson’s is living in a care facility and is unable to attend a specialist or clinic setting the PNS may visit the care facility and liaise with the treating specialists. This is dependent on the agreement of the treating specialist.

**EDUCATION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

The PNS provides an educational role to ensure informed care. Some popular sessions are:

**Overview of Living with Parkinson’s (1-1/2 Hours)**

This is suitable for low level care facilities. Cost $100

**Parkinson’s, Medications and Neuropsychiatric Issues (3 Hours)**

This is available in two 90 minute sessions or one half day session. This is suitable for high level care facilities. Cost $250

**Advanced Parkinson’s (1-1/2 Hours)**

This is suitable for high level care facilities. Cost $100

**Full Study Day**

Suitable for high level care and hospital staff. This covers all of the above and includes case studies. Cost $400

Alternative educational sessions may be arranged with the relevant nurse to address specific topics.

Bookings well in advance of date required are necessary.