

DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF PARKINSON'S WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO USE THIS SERVICE?

No, however, joining the association is encouraged as a growing membership reflects the need for ongoing services and funding. There are other benefits to becoming a member but we recognise that this is a personal choice.

HOW DO I ACCESS THE SERVICE?

The most direct way is to telephone the nurses office on **6457 7371**.

The metropolitan area is divided into several catchment areas and it is vital your message includes the following:

- Name
- Telephone Number
- Suburb

The Nurse Specialist responsible for your area will return your call to arrange an appointment. Alternatively you can telephone Parkinson's Western Australia on **6457 7373** and we will arrange for a nurse specialist to return your call.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Association is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles which are contained in Schedule 1 of the Privacy Act 1988. This legislation is designed to protect your rights with respect to personal information held by private organisations. You can contact Parkinson's Western Australia for a copy of the Privacy Policy. Further information about the Australian Privacy Principles can be obtained from The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

in brief

PARKINSON'S NURSE SPECIALIST SERVICE



IN THIS TOGETHER
parkinson's
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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WHAT IS THE NURSE SPECIALIST SERVICE?

- The Nurse Specialist Service, introduced in 1998, is an initiative of Parkinson's Western Australia.
- Nurse Specialists are employed to cover the Perth metropolitan area.
- Regional areas are visited in collaboration with local health professionals.
- The Service is funded by the Department of Health WA, Parkinson's Western Australia and charitable trusts.
- The Nurse Specialist Service is a free service.
- The Nurse Specialist Service operates Monday - Friday during business hours. It is not to be considered an emergency service.

DO I NEED A REFERRAL?

An open referral system is in place. You may self-refer to the service or, with your permission, a family member may make initial contact. Your general practitioner, treating medical specialist or health professional may also refer you to this service.

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

WHERE WILL I SEE THE NURSE SPECIALIST?

The Nurse Specialist Service is community based and person centred, most visits will be made to your home. The nurse will visit residential care facilities as required.

IS THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE LIVING IN REGIONAL AREAS?

The Perth based Nurse Specialist Service is available throughout the metropolitan area. In addition, these nurses carry out visits to regional Western Australia intermittently. There is also a Nurse Specialist Service based in Bunbury to address the needs of people living with Parkinson's in the South West.

The free call number 1800 644 189 will connect with Parkinson's Western Australia.

HOW OFTEN WILL I SEE THE NURSE SPECIALIST?

As Parkinson's symptoms and progression vary between individuals it is essential that the assessment and care are person-centred. For this reason the follow-up contacts are based on the requirements of the person and the professional assessment of the nurse. There is no predetermined frequency of visits.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE NURSE SPECIALIST?

The Nurse Specialist Service provides education and support for people and their families living with Parkinson's. A comprehensive nursing assessment focused on Parkinson's is carried out on the first visit and provides the basis for ongoing care. This assessment often addresses any questions you may have regarding the condition and its treatment. The Nurse Specialist will assist with navigating the additional health services as required.

The Nurse Specialist Service can liaise with NDIS to provide assessment of skills, abilities and needs for those people with Parkinson's less than 65 years of age.

WILL MY DOCTOR BE AWARE THAT I HAVE SEEN THE NURSE SPECIALIST?

Yes. With your permission, your general practitioner, treating medical specialist and other health professionals involved in your treatment will receive a report based on the nursing assessment carried out by the Nurse Specialist.

IF MY CARER OR PARTNER NEEDS RESPITE, WILL THE NURSE SPECIALIST ARRANGE THIS?

No. Access to respite requires assessment by an Aged Care Team (ACAT). Many services can be accessed via My Aged Care.