

USING HEALTH PATHWAYS

hne.healthpathways.org.au

HNE HealthPathways is an online health information portal for GPs, to be used at the point of care. It provides information on how to assess and manage medical conditions, and how to refer patients to local specialists and services in the most timely way.

SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION

Use the Search

Where's the search?

The HealthPathways search box is located at the top left of the page, just below the HealthPathways banner:



Can't find something?

If you can't find something, send feedback to let us know what you were looking for and any keywords you might have used to search, so we can add them into our search engine.

To use the search

- Type a **keyword** in the search box and press **Enter** (or click the **Search** button). For example, type "gastroenterology" to search for all pages that include the word gastroenterology in the text or the heading.
- Or, **type the first few** letters followed by * (e.g., gas*) to find all words containing these letters e.g., gastroenterology, gastroenterologist, gastroenteritis.



To refine your search

Once you have completed a search, you can refine the word match, categories, and how many results are listed on a page.

To close the search

Click the **X Close Search** button to close the search and display the table of contents instead.

Note: As well as searching, you can [navigate the table of contents](#).

USING THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

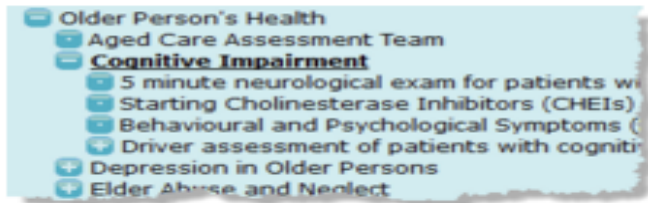
You can navigate HealthPathways by using the table of contents, by [searching](#), or by using the navigation buttons at the top of each page.

Table of contents

The table of contents/menu is located on the left panel with the yellow background.

To use the table of contents:

Click the blue boxes to open and close the menu items. Keep clicking the + box until you find the page you are looking for:



Click on the actual text to display the content of the heading in the right-hand pane.

To hide the table of contents:

Click the blue triangle to the right of the search box. Click the same triangle to see the table of contents again.



Page buttons




Back button

The Back button works exactly like your browser back button - it takes you to the page you last visited.

You may prefer to use your browser back and forwards buttons instead.



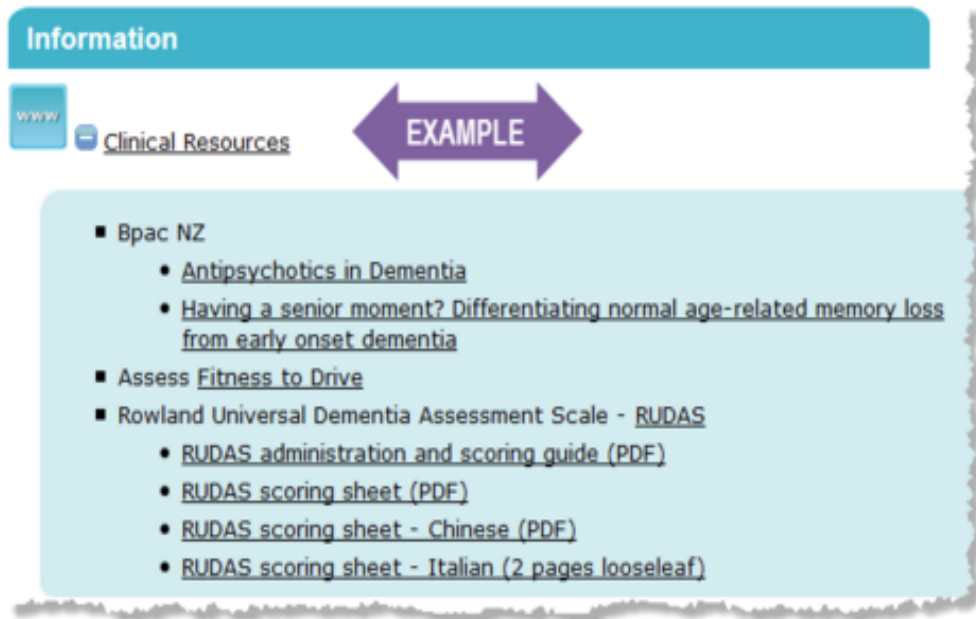
Next and Previous buttons

These buttons take you in sequence through HealthPathways. They can be useful if you want to read an entire section of HealthPathways without missing anything. For example, if you want to read the whole Diabetes section, start on the Diabetes page, then click the  button to go to the next page.

The Next and Previous buttons can be very useful when you are reviewing pathways or sections.

VIEWING CLINICAL INFORMATION

Many pathways contain online calculators, links to assessment tools, and relevant clinical guidelines, where they are recommended by local clinicians to support assessment and management of a specific condition. You can find these by expanding the **Clinical Resources** drop-down, which is listed under the **Information** heading at the bottom of every pathway.



The screenshot shows a teal header bar labeled 'Information'. Below it, a 'www' icon is followed by a dropdown menu with a minus sign and the text 'Clinical Resources'. A purple double-headed arrow labeled 'EXAMPLE' points to the expanded list of resources below. The list includes:

- Bpac NZ
 - [Antipsychotics in Dementia](#)
 - [Having a senior moment? Differentiating normal age-related memory loss from early onset dementia](#)
- Assess [Fitness to Drive](#)
- Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale - [RUDAS](#)
 - [RUDAS administration and scoring guide \(PDF\)](#)
 - [RUDAS scoring sheet \(PDF\)](#)
 - [RUDAS scoring sheet - Chinese \(PDF\)](#)
 - [RUDAS scoring sheet - Italian \(2 pages looseleaf\)](#)

VIEWING INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Many pathways contain useful resources for patients. You can find these by expanding the Patient Information drop-down, which is located in the Information section of most pathways.



The screenshot shows a teal header bar labeled 'Information'. Below it, a 'www' icon is followed by two dropdown menus. The first is '+ Clinical Resources' and the second is '- Patient Information'. A purple double-headed arrow labeled 'EXAMPLE' points to the expanded list of resources below. The list includes:

- NSW Aboriginal Land Council Funeral Fund
 - [Funeral Assistance Grants \(Information\)](#)
 - [Claim Form](#)
 - [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement](#)
- [Beyond Blue](#) - phone **1300-224-636**
- NSW Health:

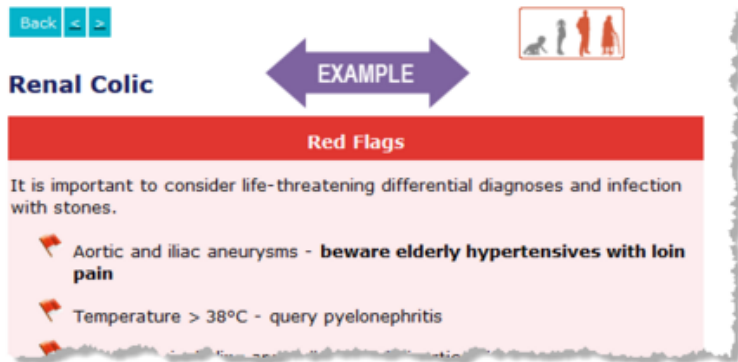
USING PATHWAYS DURING A PATIENT CONSULTATION

General practice teams use HealthPathways to access current, local, condition-specific information, management advice, and clinical resources.

- Specific pathways support the management of difficult and uncommon consultations e.g., abuse and violence.
- All pathways are kept brief and consistently structured, to help you quickly find what you need during consultations.

Pathways consist of many common features that you can read about below.

Red Flags - Red flags describe the signs or symptoms that require urgent assessment or management.



Back < >

EXAMPLE

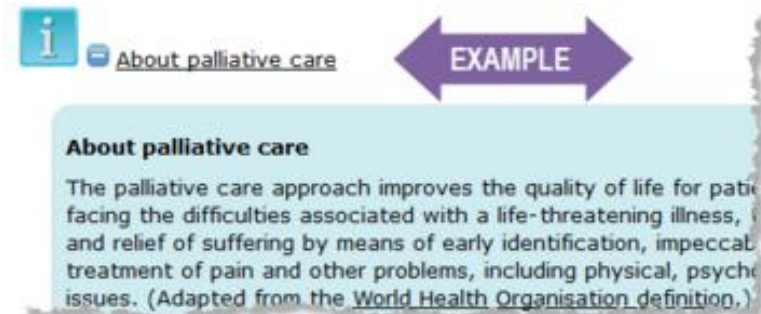
Renal Colic

Red Flags

It is important to consider life-threatening differential diagnoses and infection with stones.

- ▶ Aortic and iliac aneurysms - **beware elderly hypertensives with loin pain**
- ▶ Temperature > 38°C - query pyelonephritis

About boxes - describe background information about a condition that you may not need to know every time you're looking at the pathway. They are displayed 'hidden' in a drop-down box, so you only need to read the information if you want to.



i About palliative care

EXAMPLE

About palliative care

The palliative care approach improves the quality of life for patients facing the difficulties associated with a life-threatening illness, and relief of suffering by means of early identification, impeccable treatment of pain and other problems, including physical, psychosocial issues. (Adapted from the World Health Organisation definition.)

Flowcharts - provide a visual overview of pathways, where there are several decision points. They're not the full pathway, just the important bits. If a pathway includes a flowchart,



of pathways, where there are several decision points. They're not the full pathway, just the important bits. You'll see a flowchart icon at the top of the screen. Click on it to view the flowchart.

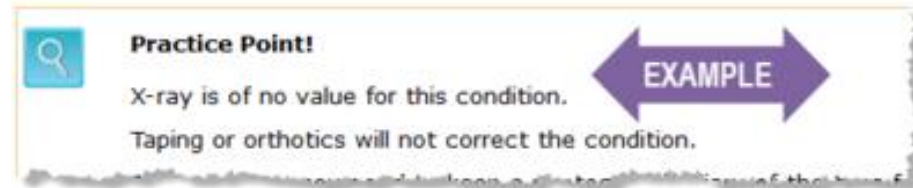
Clinical Editor's Notes –

Clinical Editor's Note

Sometimes you'll see a note like this when there's a really important change in local service availability or condition-specific management. Usually it's temporary but we need you to know.

Assessment Information - describes what your peers and specialist colleagues think is reasonable to do in primary care. It includes tips and tools to help diagnosis, and guide management.

Practice Point Boxes - Practice points are handy tips that, while not commonly known, may make all the difference to managing a condition.



Management information includes:

- Information to check therapeutics with local recommendations.
- Reminders to check a recommended drug before prescribing e.g., antibiotic doses may have changed.
- Advice on how to manage your patient while waiting for specialist assessment, or in general practice without referral.

Request or referral information includes:

- Information about accessing services in the community or hospital, or making a request for an investigation, assessment, or management.
- links through to specific service or request pages for details on accessing advice, making a referral, and the information you need to provide about the patient and their condition.

Tip: Checking this section first increases the effectiveness of calls to specialists, and helps you make accurate and appropriate referrals.

Other information – This section includes a number of icons, under which you can find details such as patient information, clinical resources, and more.



Patient Information



References



Clinical Resources



Service Information

PRINTING INFORMATION FROM HEALTH PATHWAYS

HealthPathways is primarily an online resource and it's not optimised for printing, however, you can print out one or more pages or resources as you need them. Remember that because HealthPathways changes daily, any printed pages will become out of date very quickly. Always use the live website as your main source.

To print a page or resource:

1. Expand all the drop-down boxes that you want to have included on your printout. If you don't expand the boxes, they will not print.
2. Click the **Print** button.
3. Check the layout in print preview (if your browser displays this option). You might like to change the page layout, for example or tweak the margins. Some content will display better in landscape orientation.
4. Choose your printer and change other options as required (for example, colour) and click Print.

Note: Instructions vary depending on your computer, your browser, and your setup.

SEND FEEDBACK ABOUT A PAGE

Every page in HealthPathways has a **Send Feedback** button in the upper-right corner, so that you can contact the team or make suggestions for improvement.



To send feedback, click the button, complete the form, and click **Send Feedback**. You can attach files such as documents or pictures if you need to.

Important: Do not send patient details.

All feedback is reviewed by the Clinical Editors team and responded to promptly.

ABOUT PATIENT INFO

PatientInfo www.patientinfo.org.au complements HealthPathways by providing helpful information recommended by local health professionals for patients with diagnosed conditions. The site reproduces patient information already in HealthPathways in a separate publicly available website that general practices and health professionals can recommend to patients.

