

Innovating Care Pathways in Head & Neck Cancer: A Nurse-Led Concurrent Chemoradiation Clinic

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Nil Disclosures

Gold Coast University Hospital



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cancer nursing
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Nurse-Led Concurrent Chemoradiation Clinic – H&N Cancer

Background

Head & Neck Cancer history – Gold Coast

Results

Data and patient/family feedback with MDT support

Aim

Improve patient outcomes & continuity of care

Conclusion

Outcomes from the Nurse-Led clinic

Method

Weekly Nurse-Led clinic with comprehensive review



World Head and Neck
Cancer Day 27 July

**July is
Head and Neck Cancer
Awareness Month**

History and Data on H&N Cancer

Pre-2013

No public XRT on the Gold Coast; patients travelled to Brisbane for chemo/XRT — e.g. 100 - 160 km, 4 hours daily , 5 days for 7 weeks

2013–2014

Gold Coast University Hospital opened Sep 2013; XRT commenced Jan 2014; H&N cases treated from April 2014

MDT

GCUH H&N MDT held fortnightly
Average 30–40 cases discussed - new and review cases

Current

GCUH treats >50 patients yearly with chemoradiation

2025 H&N Cancer Australia Snapshot



5,577

Estimated number of new cases of head and neck cancer (including lip) diagnosed in 2025



1,377

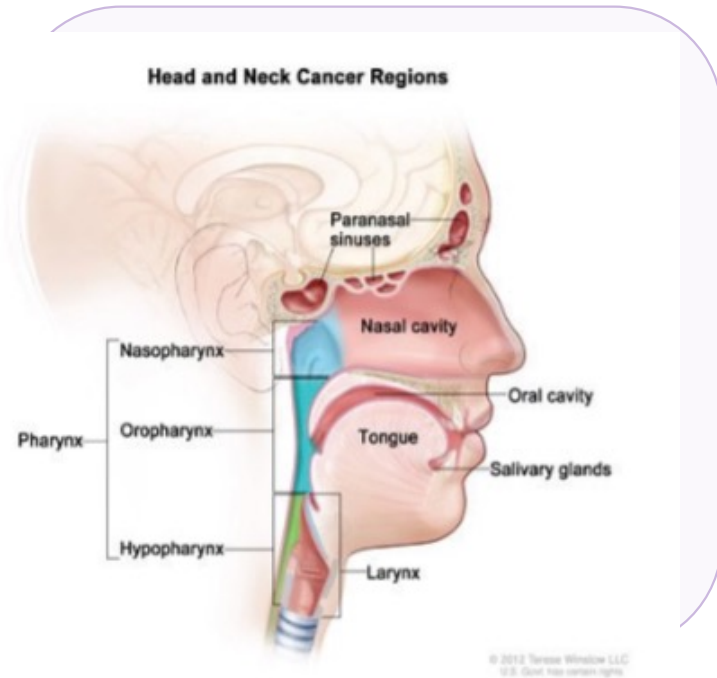
Estimated number of deaths from head and neck cancers (including lip) in 2025



72%

Chance of surviving at least 5 years (2017–2021)

Head and Neck Cancer



Common cancer types

- Mucosal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- Adenocarcinomas
- Cutaneous carcinomas and Melanoma

Key Head & Neck regions

- Tongue and BOT, Floor of Mouth (FOM), hard palate
- Throat/pharynx: nasopharynx, oropharynx, hypopharynx
- Voice box/larynx: vocal cords, epiglottis
- Mouth/oral cavity: lips, gums, lining of cheeks and lips
- Nose/nasal cavity and salivary glands

Head and Neck MDT – GCUH

Surgical specialties

- ENT surgeons
- Maxillo-facial surgeons
- Plastic surgeons
- Ophthalmic surgeons

Oncology & imaging

- Diagnostic Radiologist
- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Lismore Rad Onc via Teams —
Tweed Valley Hospital NSW



Nursing & allied health

- Cancer nurse specialist
- Speech pathologist / Dietitian
- CCC's for ENT, Plastics & OMFS

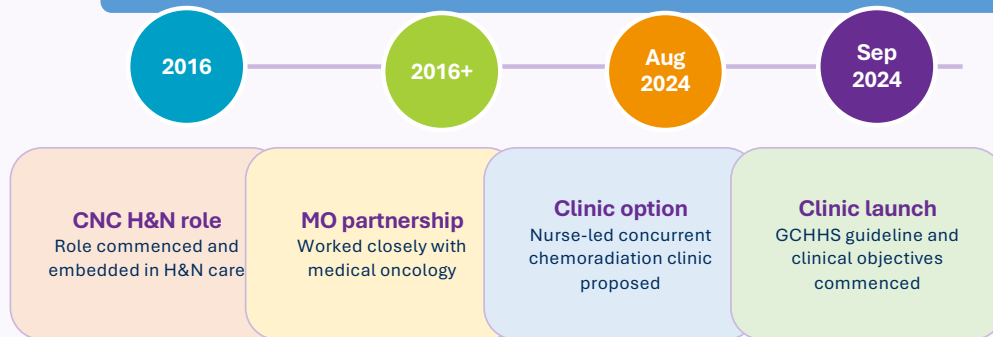
Coordination, training & support

- Trainee registrars / residents
- Medical Students
- MDT coordinator

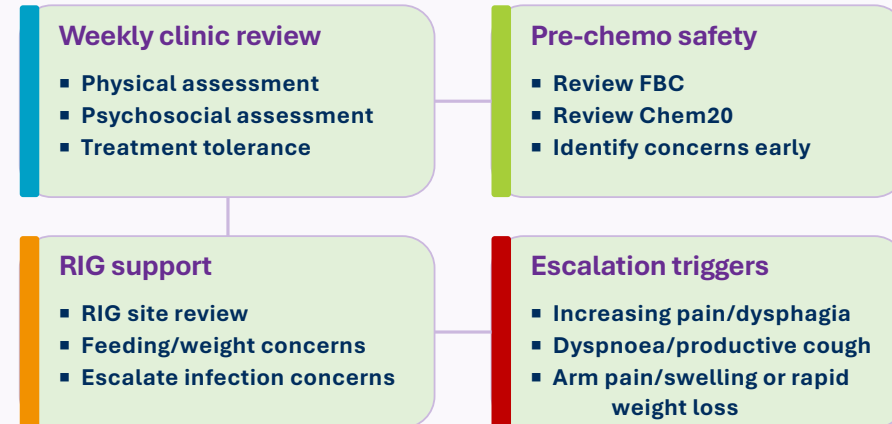
Integrated specialist input to support timely treatment planning and coordinated patient care

CNC Head & Neck Nurse-Led Clinic

How the clinic evolved

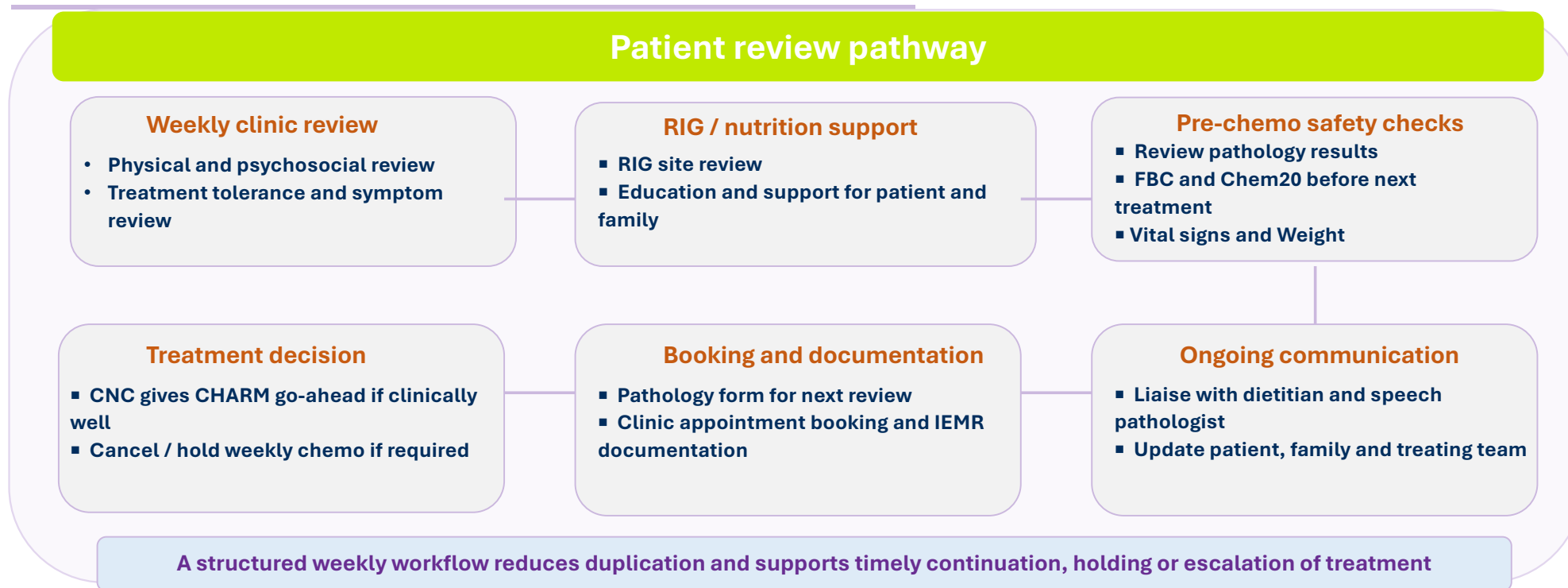


How the clinic functions now

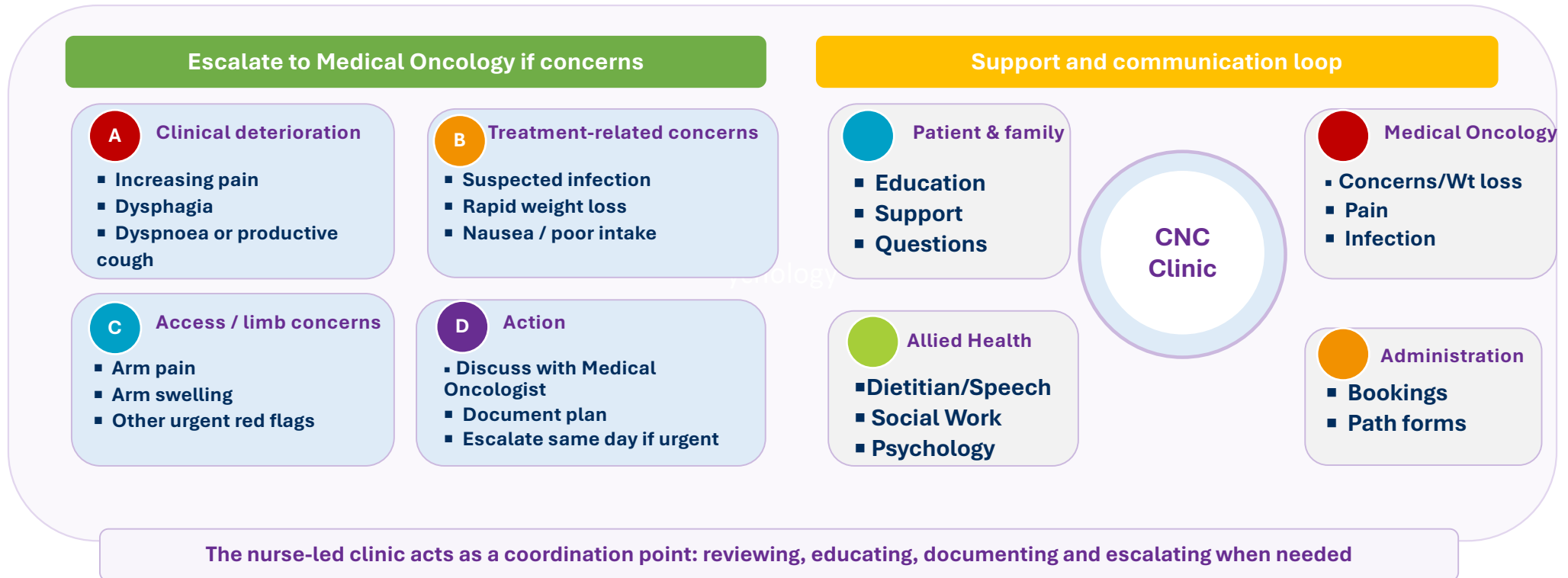


A structured nurse-led service supporting continuity, early toxicity detection and timely medical oncology escalation

Nurse-Led Clinic Workflow

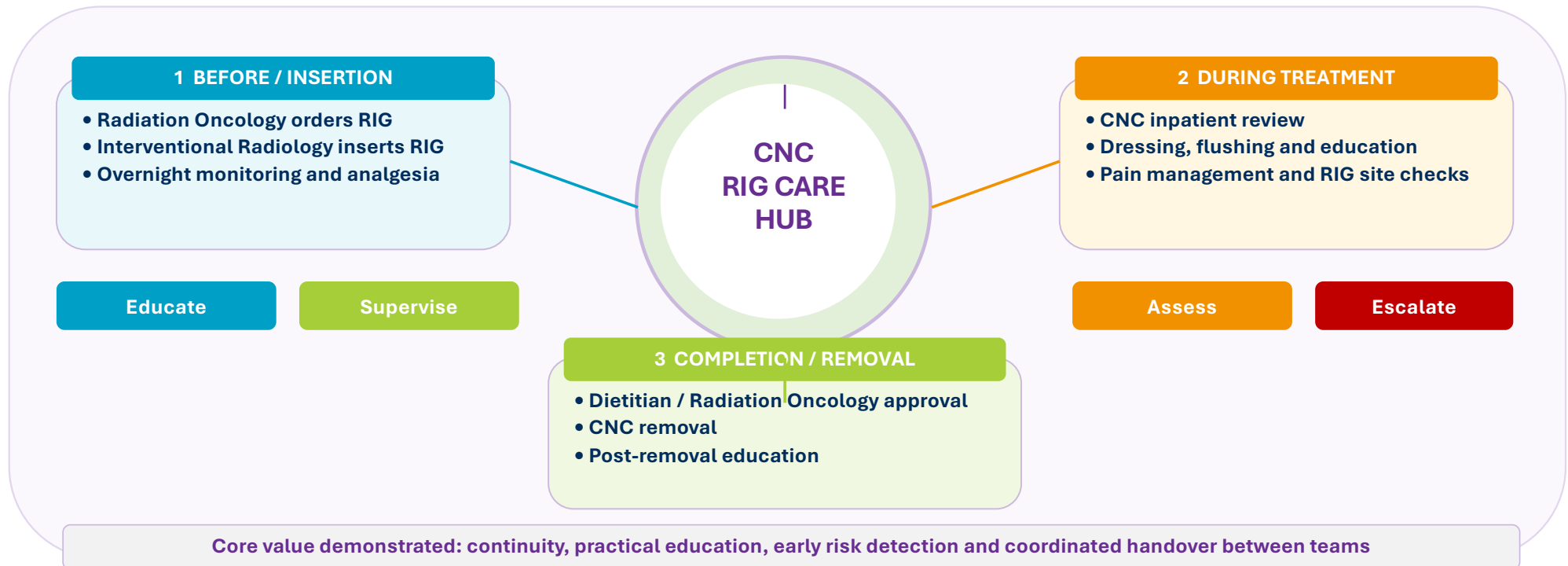


Escalation and Medical Oncology Support

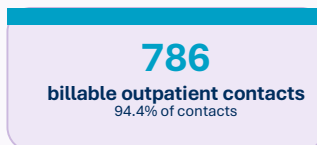


Gastrostomy (RIG) Care

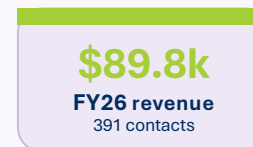
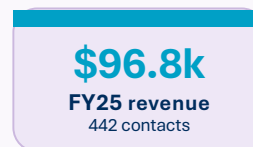
A key CNC function across the patient journey



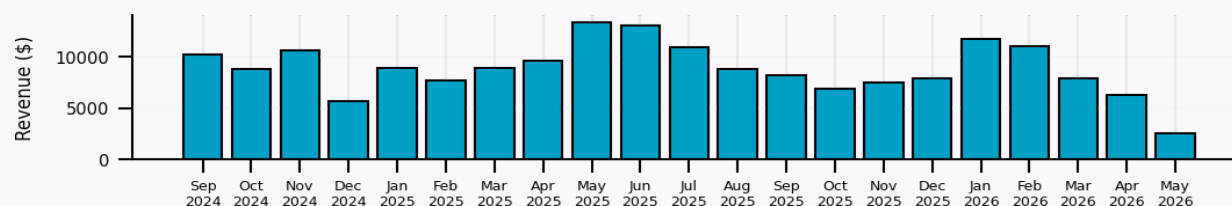
Evaluation: Activity and Revenue Generated FY25 & FY26



ABF revenue generated \$186,567
31.213 ABF QWU |



Monthly outpatient revenue generated



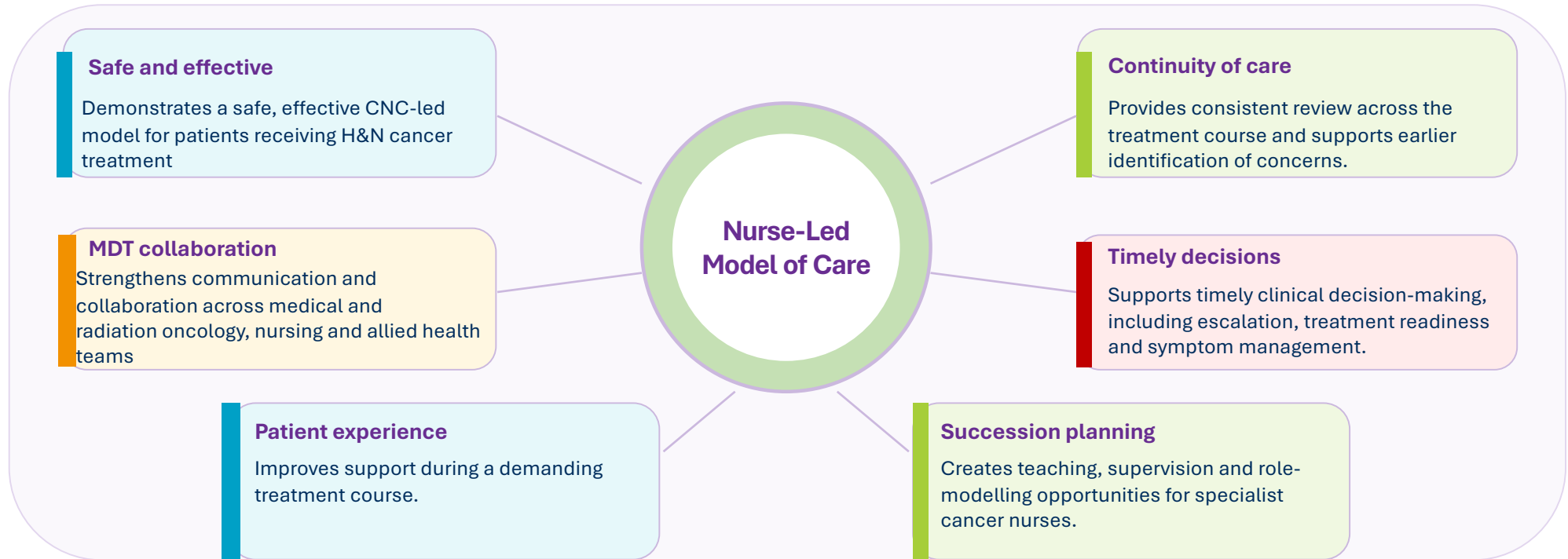
Data source: supplied pivot table. Phone vs face-to-face split was not visible in the supplied extract, so outpatient billable activity is shown as a combined total.

What this demonstrates

- Measurable revenue is generated through billable outpatient activity.
- Inpatient/day unit reviews show non-billable value: safety, coordination and treatment continuity.
- The role provides financial and clinical value beyond standard appointment counts.

Outcomes: Nurse-Led H&N Cancer Clinic

Safe • coordinated • patient-centred



Feedback on H&N Nurse-Led Clinic

Medical Oncology

Safe, effective model of care.

Patient / family

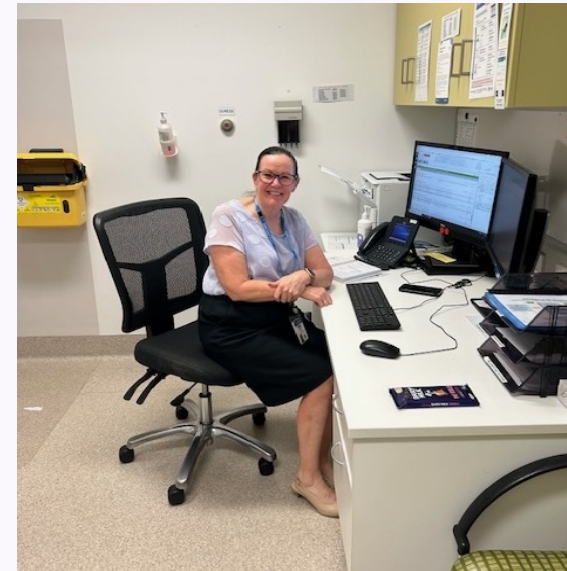
Positive reports of improved symptom management and care.

Continuity of care

Increased confidence and satisfaction throughout treatment

Clinical Communication

Improved clinical communication between clinician and patient.



Take-home message

One role. Four actions. Real impact.

A CNC-led clinic translates specialist cancer nursing expertise into safer, more connected care.

Continuity of care

Access to health care

Patient confidence

1 Innovate

new model of specialist review

2

Integrate

link patient, oncology, nursing and allied health

3

Educate

build confidence with every contact

4

Advocate

improve access and timely escalation



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Thank you ...



"Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon."
(Dag Hammarskjold)