

## CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY SERVICES

Clinical immunology is primarily provided at Liverpool Hospital.

Statistics from NSW Health do not adequately describe the immunology caseload and as such are not used here.

With the projected growth in population in SWSAHS, it is anticipated that existing services will need to grow by 30-50% to met the increased demand.

### Current Services

#### Liverpool Hospital

Clinical Immunology commenced at Liverpool in 1994, with an outpatient clinic that resulted in a number of patients transferring their care from inner-city hospitals to the local service. Later a conjoint Connective Tissue Disease clinic was established and an additional allergy / pure immunology clinic commenced.

Inpatients enter the service predominantly from outpatient clinics, with occasional referrals from Emergency or from other clinical services. The total number of long stay patients in 2003 was only 100 but there were many short-stay patients, including ten patients per month who received intravenous gamma globulin. Several patients were admitted for IV cyclophosphamide or blood transfusion.

#### Non-inpatient

At Liverpool Hospital, there is a Connective Tissue Disease conjoint clinic between Immunology and Rheumatology, with approximately 95 visits per month, and an Immunology / Allergy clinic with approximately 40 visits per month. At Campbelltown, one of the staff specialists sees patients in his private consulting rooms.

A lupus support group was established in 2002 with support from the social worker at Bigge Park Centre and approximately 12-15 patients attend monthly meetings.

### Research and Teaching

Education is provided to medical students and to RMOs. The latter has responded well to weekend workshop presentations, instead of sessions during working hours.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clinical Immunology be an Area Service based at Liverpool with an Area Director of Clinical Immunology/Allergies appointed.
- An additional Immunologist be appointed to the Area. This additional position will enable clinics to be increased at Campbelltown Hospital and established at Bankstown Hospital.