

Who is a Carer?

A Carer is a family member or friend who provides ongoing support to children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, a chronic condition, drug or alcohol dependencies, a terminal illness, or who are frail aged.

Carers do this, often without payment but some may be eligible for Carer Payment or Carer Allowance through Centrelink.

Carers may help with:

- Toileting/showering and dressing
- Going out to activities and meeting people
- Transport
- Going to the Doctor
- Making appointments
- Keeping someone safe in the home or community

“ Carers play a crucial role as care partners. They are often experts in the care of the person requiring care and can assist with care planning and delivery, with the agreement of the care recipient”

(NSW Carers' Action Plan 2007–2012)

Mid North Coast Local Health District would like to acknowledge the Carer Support Unit, Central Coast Local Health District for the integration of their concept and material to support further uptake of the TOP 5 initiative and the Clinical Excellence Commission, HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation for research projects and resource development.

What does a TOP 5 look like?

1. Bill is a quiet man and likes to keep to himself. He does not like any more than two visitors at a time or he may get agitated.
2. When making appointments for Bill, do not talk to him about these as he may get agitated and/or forget, it is best to arrange these with family / carers.
3. Bill has strong traditional cultural beliefs and requires a male nurse, family member or friend to shower him or he may become distressed.
4. Bill has bad memories of hospitals from previous visits. Make sure you talk to him about his treatment with family present. This will help develop trust with Bill and his family/carers.
5. Bill tends to panic in enclosed places, so placement near a window, where he can see outside will help him be settled and stay calm.



Artwork produced by Gumbaynggirr
Artist Brentyn Lugnan

TOP 5 in HOSPITAL

A Communication Tool



Health
Mid North Coast
Local Health District

TOP 5 information is
online. Visit:

www.mnclhd.health.nsw.gov.au/top5

What is TOP 5 about?

It can be very hard for people when they are away from home, very sick and in hospital.

You and your family, or carer know what is important for you.

It can also be hard for the hospital staff, because they do not always know what you want and do not want.

To get the staff to know you better, you or your family and/or carer can ask the staff to write what you like and don't like on the TOP 5 form.



You may not be able to speak for yourself because you are too sick, so your family/carer can tell staff for you.

What do we need to know?

- ⇒ Things that often make you upset and how we can help you
- ⇒ If you have someone in your family that we can talk to about helping you
- ⇒ What staff can do or say to make you feel comfortable and safe



- ⇒ You &/or your family spokesperson need to tell us what you like and don't like.
- ⇒ Let us know what we need to do and/or not to do and how this makes you feel.
- ⇒ Some examples are over the page and suggestions on tips are on the back on the TOP 5 Form.

How does TOP 5 work?

Talk to your nurse, a Social Worker, Aboriginal Health or Liaison Officer or other staff about your TOP 5. They will write your tips and ideas, likes or what you don't like on the TOP 5 form.

All staff can then follow your tips.

You may have only one tip or up to 5 tips.

Surname:	MRN
Given name:	
Date of Birth:	
Sex:	(Affix patient label here)

Strategies to Support Care and Communication

Please keep this form in a central place where staff can access it. If the individual is in hospital, place the original form, or TOP 5 tag, on top of the bed chart notes. The TOP 5 form should travel with the individual if transferred to a health care service or their home.

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Compiled by: _____ Date: _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

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