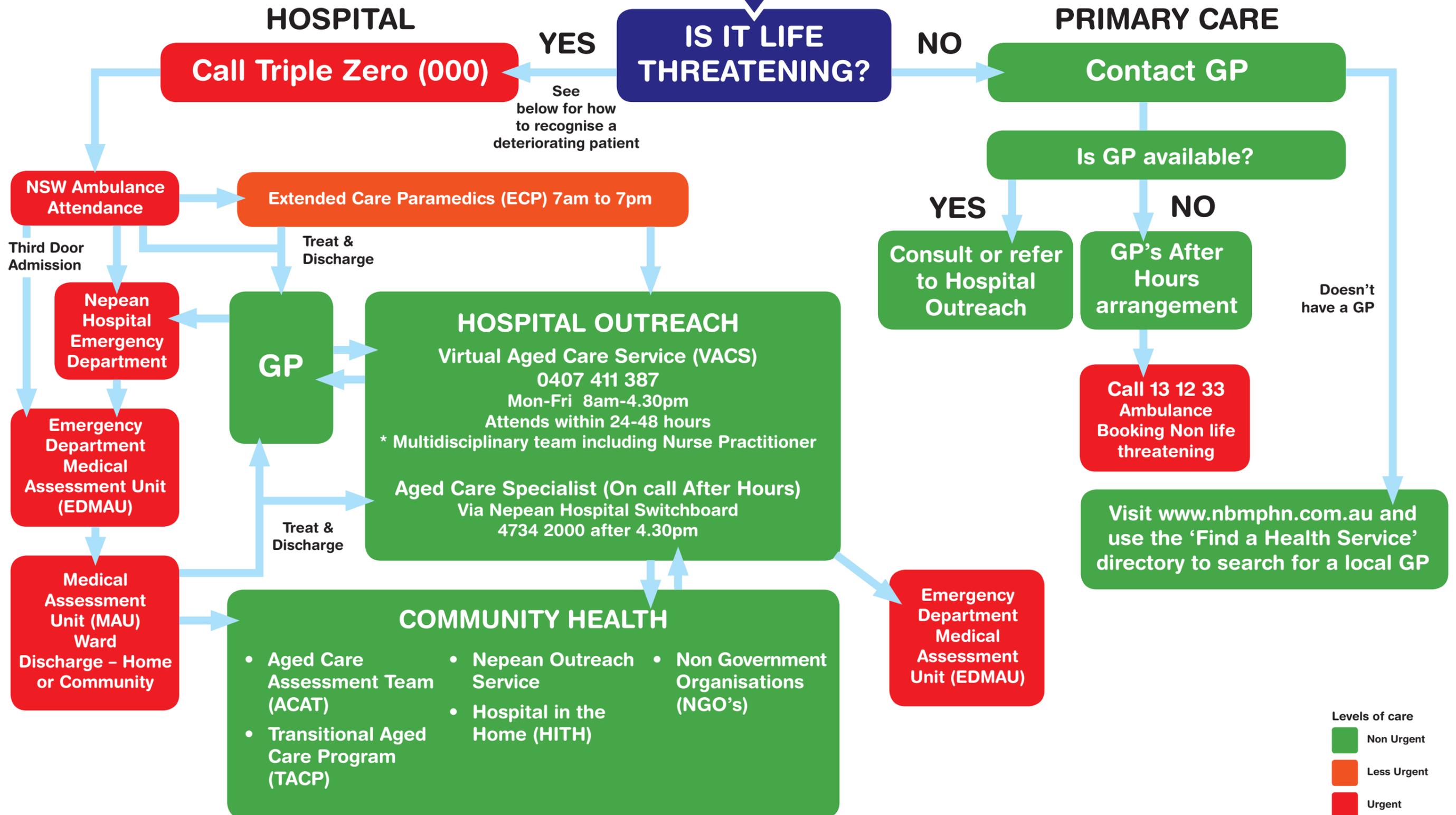


Rapid Health Decline in the Older Person – what to do?

Local Nepean Region Pathway – A local pathway to support those who care for older people with acute care needs.

Unexpected deterioration • Unexplained & sudden changes within hours or days



Recognition of a Deteriorating Patient

LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS include	RED (DANGER)	YELLOW (CAUTION)
Breathing difficulties	Respiratory rate ≤5/min or ≥30/min	Respiratory rate ≤ 10/min or ≥25/min
Chest pain or chest tightness	Respiratory effort Obvious distress and /or cyanosis	Respiratory effort Unusually labored or noisy breathing
Sudden onset of weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face, arm or leg	Level of responsiveness Responding to Painful stimuli or Unresponsive	Level of responsiveness Responding to Verbal stimuli
Unconsciousness	Heart Rate ≤40/min or ≥140	Heart Rate ≤50/ min or ≥120/min
Uncontrollable bleeding	Systolic Blood Pressure ≤90mmHg systolic or ≥200mmHg systolic	Systolic Blood Pressure ≤100mmHg systolic or ≥180mmHg systolic
Sudden collapse or unexplained fall	Blood Glucose Level ≤4mmol & unresponsive or ≥28mmol or HI	Blood Glucose Level ≤ 4mmol or ≥ 14mmol
Unexplained fitting		Temperature ≤35.5° or ≥38.5°
Fall from a great height		
Severe burns		

Reference: Information sourced from NSW Ambulance (2016) as part of the Older Persons Care Consortium.

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This pathway was developed as an outcome from the Older Persons Care Consortium (August 2015, Penrith). Learn more about the Older Persons Care Consortium at www.nbmphn.com.au/PenrithForum

For further information, please visit the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network at www.nbmphn.com.au or contact on telephone 4708 8100.

View an interactive version of the pathway online at www.agedcarewentworth.com.au.

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