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Primary options works for patients

A service allowing some patients to receive high level treatment from their doctor, rather than going to hospital is being rolled out across the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Primary Options has been operating in the Western Bay of Plenty for some time, and its popularity with patients has seen Eastern Bay primary health organisations keen to expand it to local GPs.

Coordinator Yvonne Boyes says it's a huge benefit for patients who would otherwise have to go in to the hospital for daily intensive treatments such as intravenous antibiotics or fluids.

"Most people prefer to be treated by their own doctor," she says.

The service is available for patients with cellulitis, suspected DVT (deep vein thrombosis), dehydration, asthma and pneumonia, who may need an intensive 3-5 day treatment. It can include diagnostic procedures such as x-ray and ultrasound, home visits by GPs or nurses, intravenous therapy, transport and rest home care.

Yvonne is working with general practices across the Bay, to ensure they have the training and resources to offer the service.

"One of the key strengths of the service is that the patient is being treated at the practice, where they know the staff and are in familiar surroundings. Being able to go to your local GP for treatment is much less disruptive to family life and the continuity of care is guaranteed," she says.



Braxton Taylor (14) and his mum appreciate how easy it is to access treatment at their own GP, Radius Medical Whakatane.