

- ### Brief History

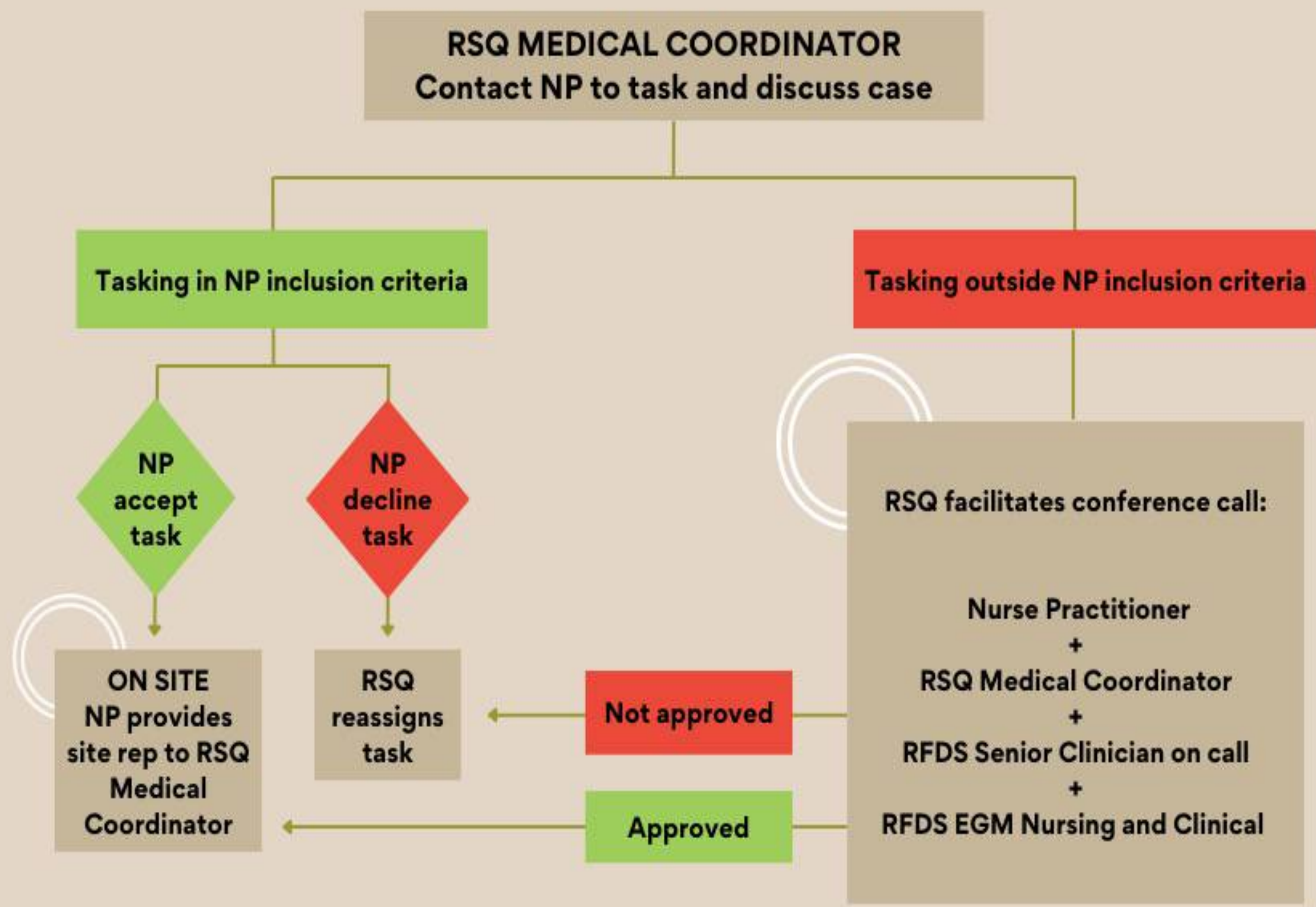
  - ❖ 2009 - 2010 – First RFDS Flight Nurses enrolled in UQ Master of Nurse Practitioner program. RFDS supported nurses to complete clinical placements in tertiary emergency departments.
  - ❖ October 2019 – First Nurse Practitioner Aeromedical trial commenced operating from Brisbane Base with one NP.
    - ❖ May 2023 Commencement of funded NP Aeromedical trial. One NP on shift 7 days a week operating from RFDS Brisbane or RFDS Rockhampton.
- ### Aeromedical – Nurse Practitioner Trial

  - ❖ Late 2022 – RFDSQ secured funding to trial NP Aeromedical model of care.
  - ❖ Prior to commencement, collaborated to develop scope of practice, clinical governance and tasking framework.
  - ❖ Funding for 3 FTE Nurse Practitioners to provide 7 day/week service.
  - ❖ NP rostered on 12 hour day shift and tasked by RSQ for interfacility transfer of low to high dependency adult patients.
  - ❖ NP available for tasking with any of the 5 aircraft operating between 0600 – 1800 hrs.
- ### The Future

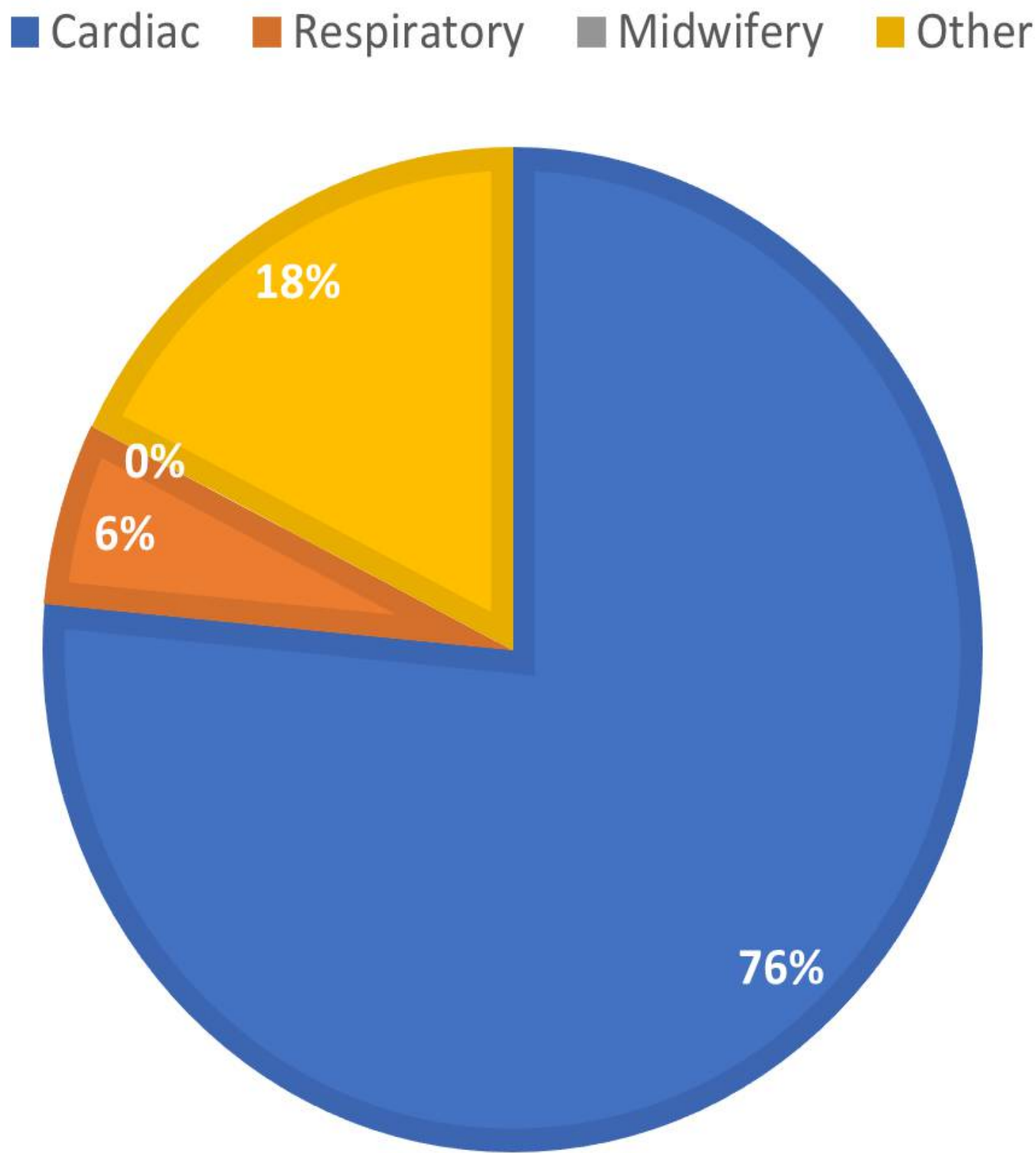
  - ❖ RFDSQ supported by RFDS Federation and RSQ have committed to providing quantitative research examining the role. Look out for it at Aeromed 2024.
  - ❖ External organisation engaged to complete qualitative and financial evaluation.
  - ❖ RFDSQ providing scholarship to support current RFDSQ Flight Nurses to complete Master of NP studies.
  - ❖ Beyond 2025 – Using research and evaluation data, aim to secure funding for continuation and expansion of the service to other RFDSQ Bases.



## Aeromedical Nurse Practitioner Tasking process



NP TASKINGS BY DIAGNOSTIC GROUP



## Aeromedical Nurse Practitioner Tasking Guidelines

### Inclusion criteria

#### Cardiovascular

- ☐ STEMI / NSTEMI
  - Haemodynamically stable
  - Ongoing pain
  - Heparin / GTN infusion
- ☐ Heart Block
  - Temporary pacing wires
  - Drug infusion
- ☐ AAA
  - + / - Blood tranfusion
- ☐ Sepsis
  - Single inotrope - stable BP
  - Single sytem i.e. no respiratory

#### Respiratory

- ☐ Hi Flow
  - Stable or decreasing FiO2 + L/min over 2hr period
- ☐ Non Invasive CPAP / BiPAP
  - Patient not for intubation i.e. NIV is ceiling of care

### Exclusion criteria

#### <16 years old

- ☐ Multisystem disease requiring support i.e. cardiovascular + respiratory
- ☐ Acute Behaviourial Disturbance

### Focus

- Cardiovascular and respiratory.
- Midwife Scope: NP can be tasked with non-midwife for midwifery cases.

### RFDS Nurse Practitioner Aeromedical Clinical Skills

Procedure	Checkmark
<b>Airway Procedures</b>	
Airway management (manual, OPA, NPA, LMA)	✓
<b>Breathing Procedures</b>	
Bag/valve/mask ventilation	✓
High Flow Oxygen Therapy (initiate and maintain)	✓
Non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP/CPAP) (initiate and maintain)	✓
<b>Circulation Procedures</b>	
Intravenous cannula insertion	✓
Intraosseous insertion	✓
Defibrillation	✓
Cardioversion	✓
Transcutaneous pacing (initiate and maintain)	✓
Management of transvenous pacing in situ	✓
Invasive pressure monitoring (arterial/central line)	✓
<b>Maintain only. Not insertion</b>	
<b>Pharmacology</b>	
Prescribing and administering: all medications stocked in RFDS Aeromedical aircraft	✓
Drug infusion e.g. single inotropes, GTN, anti-arrhythmic, analgesia	✓
<b>General Procedures</b>	
ECG 12 Lead interpretation	✓
Blood chemistry/ABG analysis	✓
CXR interpretation	✓

**Tasking process** see flowchart

Nurse Practitioner rostered as Day 1 (0600 -1800)

- Available for tasking with various RFDS Base crews i.e. Brisbane (Day 1 & 2), Bundaberg, Rockhampton (Day 1 & 2) and Charleville aircraft.