

1. Newborn Hearing Screening Programme Update

The Waikato Newborn Hearing Screening Programme has been operating for five years with over 22,000 babies screened. Screening has covered 95% of all babies born at Waikato Hospital, River Ridge East and Waterford birthing units and in the rural areas of Thames, Taumarunui, Te Kuiti, Tokoroa, Te Awamutu, Huntly, Morrinsville and Matamata. Only 1% of parents have declined screening for their child.

399 babies have been referred to audiologists, 64 have been identified with significant hearing loss, 33 of those have permanent bilateral hearing loss, 21 have hearing aids and 7 have had a cochlear implant. Prior to the programme these children would only have been detected at school age. They will now have significantly improved outcomes, with speech and language development and educational achievement equivalent to their normal hearing peers.

The programme's screeners endeavour to contact all parents of babies who are missed, to offer an outpatient screening appointment. The "unable to contact" and "did not attend" appointment rates are 2% and 1% respectively.

Thank you for your continued support to help ensure all babies receive a hearing screen.

For more information contact Lynne Forsman, programme manager or Cobus Marais, charge audiologist on 839 8794.

Or visit the National Screening Unit website: <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/Current-NSU-Programmes>

2. Growing Up in New Zealand

You may have heard of a new child development research project, led by the University of Auckland, called Growing Up in New Zealand. The research aims to discover what it takes to raise happy, healthy children and consequently improve the lives of all New Zealand children.

Planned to last for twenty years, the research starts before the children are born and continues until they reach adulthood. The research involves an interview with each parent to answer questions about the factors that shape a child's development. These questions cover health, education, family/ whanau, culture and identity, neighbourhood and, of course, the baby.

Every pregnant woman who lives in the Waikato DHB is invited to join Growing Up if her baby is due between 25 April and 25 December this year (Anzac Day to Christmas Day 2009). Dads-to-be are also welcome to join Growing Up along with their partners.

Your pregnant patients can enrol or enquire about Growing Up by calling the freephone number 0508 476 946 or go online at www.growingup.co.nz.

3. Referrals for slipped femoral epiphysis

Some patients with slipped femoral epiphysis are being referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic. However, to get the most timely treatment for your patients, the Orthopaedic Department recommends that you refer patients with suspected slipped upper femoral epiphysis to the Emergency Department for early review and intervention rather than waiting for a clinic appointment. Thanks for your assistance.

4. Rotorua Hospital Pain Service closed

Rotorua Hospital would like to advise Waikato GPs that the Rotorua public pain service closed several months ago. Referrals for Waikato DHB resident patients should be directed to the pain clinic at Waikato Hospital. The only pain service operating in Rotorua is the private service being offered by Steffan Neff www.painspecialists.co.nz

5. SCR update

Waikato Hospital - Delivery suite refurbishment and construction of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) are both complete and open. Work is now underway to partially refurbish the old NICU area into office space and parent rooms. Emergency Department construction is ongoing and refurbishment of the first Forensic ward in the Henry Rongomau Bennett Centre is underway. Work will soon start to prepare the Waikato Hospital for construction of the Waikato Clinical Centre. This includes demolition of buildings, relocating staff and establishing alternative corridors for hospital pedestrian traffic.

Thames Hospital - Construction at Thames is complete and Minister of Health Tony Ryall officially opened the new buildings in February. Resource consent is currently being sought for a new primary birthing facility to be built on Mary Street and open by end 2009.

More information: www.waikatodhb.govt.nz



Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Audiology	Children 9-32 mths	4 months
	Under 17 years	4 months
	Children's hearing aids	4 weeks
	Adult diagnostic tests	6 months
	Adult hearing aids	6 months
	Central auditory processing test	6 months
Breast Care	Urgent	3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4 month
	*BCC Imaging Urgent only	2 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
Cardiology	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	2-6 months
	Routine	6 months
Colposcopy	Invasive	Within 7 days
	High grade	4 weeks
	Low grade	26 weeks
	Non cervical	26 weeks
Dental	Urgent	24 hours
	Semi-urgent	3 weeks
	Routine	3 months
Dermatology (1) Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	Within 5 days
	Semi-urgent	4 months
	Routine	6 months
Paediatric Dermatology		5 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent	7 days
	Semi-urgent	4 weeks
	Routine	6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	Within 6 months
Diabetes Nurse Educator	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-3 Months
Endocrinology	Urgent	6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	Within 6 months
Endoscopy/ Colonoscopy Medical	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-Urgent	4-6weeks
	Urgent	2-4 weeks
Surgical	Urgent	6-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	
ENT	Urgent	1-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent (children)	6 months
	Semi-urgent (adults)	6 months
Gastro-enterology	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-6 weeks
General Medicine	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 weeks
	Routine	2-3 months
General Surgery	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi urgent	2-6 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	6 months
Haematology	Urgent	2-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6-4 weeks
	Routine	4-6 months
	DVT	4 months
Maxillo-facial	Urgent	Within 24 hours
	Semi-urgent	Within 3 weeks
	Routine	3 months
Neurology	Urgent	1-3 months
	Semi-urgent	5 months
	EMG urgent	1-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
	EEG urgent routine	2-8 weeks
		2-6 months
Neurosurgery	Urgent	Within 1 month
	Semi-urgent	Within 6 months
	Routine	
Older Persons & Rehabilitation Service	Assessment & Outpatients	
	Geriatrician Clinic	1-3 weeks
	PT Clinic	1-3 weeks
	OT Clinic	1-3 weeks
	Rehabilitation Clinic	
	PT Clinic	1-3 weeks
	OT Clinic	1-3 weeks
Rehabilitation Physician Clinic	1-3 weeks	

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
	(Neuropsychologist)	
	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-6 months
	Routine	2 years
Oncology and Medical	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	40-45 working days
	Priority 1	1-2 days
Radiation	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	15-20 working days
Ophthalmology	Urgent	within 1 month
	Urgent laser	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent – Children	within 6 months
	Semi-urgent – Adults	6 months
	Semi-urgent (diabetic)	1 month
	Minor Operation Clinic	within 6 months
Orthopaedic	General – Urgent	1-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	Up to 3 months
	Routine	Up to 6 months
	Paediatrics – Urgent	1-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	Up to 4 months
	Routine	Up to 6 months
	Paediatric Gait Clinic CDH/DDH Assess	NB: referrals may be initially seen by a Generalist Orthopaedic Surgeon Within 3 months 1-6 weeks
Paediatric Medicine	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	3-6 months
Paediatric Surgical	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4-6 weeks
	Routine	8-12 weeks
Pain clinic	Urgent	Up to 1 month
	Semi-urgent	Up to 3 months
	Routine	Up to 6 months
Physiotherapy	General musculoskeletal	5 days (urgent) 6-8weeks (routine)
	Respiratory	5 days (urgent) 4 weeks (semiurgent)
	Rheumatology	4 weeks
	Women's Health	5 days (urgent) 3-4 weeks (routine)
	Continence	6 months
Plastics (1) Fax immediate / acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	Within 4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	5 months
Plastics Lesion clinic	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2 months
	Routine	4 months
Renal	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Respiratory	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-2 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Rheumatology (3)	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-2 months
	Routine	2-4 months
Thyroid	Urgent	6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6 months
	Routine	Within 6 months
Ultrasound	Very Urgent	1 week
	Urgent	2 weeks
	Priority	4 weeks
	Routine	3 months
	Non-urgent	6 months
Urology		Within 2 months
Vascular	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Vascular Surgery	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Adult Mental Health Waiting Times		
Triage (face to face or phone triage)	Crisis referrals	Within 24 hours
	Non-crisis/routine	Within 2 weeks

- 1 Immediate & urgent dermatology/plastics cases must be discussed with the specialist or registrar to allow appropriate prioritisation.
- 2 All urgent diabetes referrals can be seen on the same day.
- 3 All urgent rheumatology cases should be discussed with the rheumatologist.

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