

1 Outreach on the Internet

At last Outreach has moved into the 21st century and is now available on the Internet. You will still receive a hard copy but can also access it on www.waikato.govt.nz/GP.

2 Haematology Help

In the next few weeks a set of guidelines for three haematological conditions are to be introduced through the peer group network, as a result of a collaborative effort by Pinnacle, including some GPs, and the Waikato Hospital haematologists. All GPs will be invited to attend the peer group meetings where the guidelines are presented.

The guidelines cover haemochromatosis and iron overload, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and monoclonal gammopathy. They should be a useful tool to assist and support GPs to manage patients in the community where appropriate, and to advise when they need specialist intervention. The haematologists will also use the guidelines to provide management advice which may avoid patients having to attend an appointment, or to ensure that a clinic appointment is as productive as possible by having all the necessary information available, which may reduce the need for follow up appointments.

3 Nurse led Gynaecology pre-admission clinic trial

The Ministry of Health has funded a trial of a nurse led pre-admission clinic for gynaecology at Waikato Hospital. All elective gynaecology patients will be given a complete pre-op work up including education and a physical examination as well as the initiation of discharge planning. The patients will also see an anaesthetist if required. If a problem is identified during the assessment e.g. uncontrolled hypertension, the nurse will communicate with the patient's GP so collaboratively they can ensure the patient will be treated and fit for surgery.

Debi Whitham is going to be the nurse carrying out the trial. She has worked in the perioperative setting for the last 11 years tending towards pre-admission assessments. If you have any queries regarding pre-op elective gynaecology patients who are booked for surgery Debi can be contacted at Waikato Hospital on pager 20845. For any other waiting list queries please contact the booking clerk.

4 Tuberculosis Medication Cards

A well thought out and attractive card has been developed to assist patients with tuberculosis in understanding their medication. The card has photographs of all current medication options, details of when and what to take and special instructions associated with each medication. It also has the name and contact phone number of the public health nurse, TB specialist, pharmacy and GP. Patients will be

given this at the initiation of treatment, but extra copies can be obtained from the Public Health Unit or Waikato Hospital pharmacy.

5 ICOMET – New Meningococcal B Vaccine Module

The Immunisation Advisory Centre Team (IMAC) has developed a new module for iCOMET (a GP education programme) – a meningococcal B vaccine module. The module can be accessed via www.icomet.org.nz. The programmes have been designed by experts in the field and are approved for credits for RNZCGP advanced vocational education (AVE) and maintenance of professional standards (MOPS) purposes.

6 Welcome to...

Paul Brydon, emergency medicine, graduated from Otago at the end of 1991, did most of his emergency medicine training in Christchurch and then moved to Queensland where he has been the last 3yrs, while completing his fellowship. His particular interests are procedural sedation, evidence based medicine and medical mythology! Outside of work interests includes hang gliding, flying light aeroplanes and rugby.

Marion Kupe Hommel, medical oncologist, whose special interest is lymphoma. Marion has come from Holland, and with her husband, 6 yr old son and 4 yr old daughter and is looking forward to making new "kiwi" friends.

Phil Puckeridge, vascular surgery. Phil was in Waikato as a trainee, and has returned having spent the last year on an advanced training fellowship in Adelaide.

Justina Wu, general medicine and endocrinology. Originally from southern California, Justina trained at the University of Washington, then John Hopkins and most recently has been working in Georgia. Her interests are obesity and metabolic syndrome. In addition she had a strong basic science research interest in the States, which she hopes to continue, perhaps through Ruakura, where her husband is a scientist.

And farewell to...

Andrew Carter, pathology, who is moving to Brisbane, having made a big contribution to the Health Waikato laboratories.

Alison Coutts, haematology, who is returning to the UK after enjoying a year in New Zealand and working at Health Waikato.

Ramesh Tripathi, locum specialist vascular surgery, who is moving to a permanent position in Brisbane after 12 months in the Waikato.

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Audiology	Children 9-32 mths	2 months
	Under 17 years	2-3 months
	Children's hearing aids	4 weeks
	Adult diagnostic tests	4 months
	Adult hearing aids	6 months
Breast Care	Urgent	3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	10-12 months
	*BCC Imaging	2 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
Cardiology	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	2-9 months
	Routine	9-12 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	2 months
Dermatology (1) Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	24 hours
	Semi-urgent	6 weeks
Paediatric Dermatology	Routine	6 months
		7 months
Hands		2 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent	24 hours
	Routine	6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent	3-4 months
	Semi-urgent	5-6 months
	Routine	6 months +
Diabetes Nurse Educator	Urgent	Within 7 days
	Semi-urgent	Within 6 weeks
Endocrinology	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	2-6 months
	Routine	9-12 months
Endoscopy/Colonoscopy Medical	Urgent	4-6 weeks
	Semi-Urgent	4-6 weeks
Surgical	Urgent	4-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	24 months
ENT	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent (children)	Up to 6 months
	Semi-urgent (adults)	Up to 8 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	3-5 months
	Routine	11-12 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	6-7 months
Haematology	Urgent	2-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6-4 weeks
	Routine	4-10 months
	DVT	4 months
Maxillo-facial	Urgent	Within 24 hours
	Semi-urgent	Within 1 week
	Routine	2 months
Neurology	Urgent	1-3 months
	Semi-urgent	3-10 months
	EMG urgent	1-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
	EEG urgent routine	2-8 weeks
		2-6 months

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Oncology (medical radiation) Medical	Priority 1	24 hours
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	15-20 working days
Radiation	Priority 1	24 hours
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	35-40 working days
Ophthalmology	Urgent	1 month
	Urgent laser	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent – Children	6 months
	Semi-urgent – Adults	12 months
	Minor Operation Clinic	6 months
Orthopaedic	General	Under 6 months
	Back pain	Up to 8 months
	Paediatrics	Up to 7 months
	Paediatric Gait Clinic	1-4 weeks
Paediatric Medicine	Urgent	2-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2 months
	Routine	2-3 months
Paediatric Surgical	Urgent	1 week
	Semi-urgent	Within 2 weeks
	Routine	3 weeks
Pain clinic	Urgent	Up to 3 months
	Semi-urgent	Up to 5 months
	Routine	6 months
Physiotherapy	General musculoskeletal	5 days (urgent) 6-8 weeks (routine)
		2-3 weeks
	Respiratory	4 weeks
	Rheumatology	2 days (urgent)
Women's Health	2-3 weeks (routine)	
Plastics (1) Fax immediate/acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4 months
	Routine	6 months +
Plastics Lesion clinic	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	6 months +
Rehabilitation	Day Clinic	1-3 weeks
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	2-4 weeks
	Semi-Urgent	4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Ultrasound	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	7-8 months
	Routine	12-15 months
Urology		Within 2 months
Vascular	Urgent	1-4 weeks
Vascular Surgery	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Adult Mental Health Waiting Times		
Community mental health team	Crisis referrals	Within 24 hours
	Non-crisis/routine	Within 10 days

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.

4 Carotid studies are now being done by the vascular laboratory.

5 OPTHALMOLOGY – PLEASE NOTE FAXED REFERRALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED UNLESS THE PATIENT IS ACUTE AND YOU HAVE DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH THE REGISTRAR. ON YOUR ACUTE FAX REFERRAL PLEASE ADVISE THE NAME OF THE DOCTOR WITH WHOM YOU DISCUSSED THE CASE.