

1. Neurosurgery good news

Plans for a neurosurgery service have taken a significant step forward with the appointment of Mr V Balakrishnan, who will lead the establishment of the unit. It is hoped that this major new unit for Waikato Hospital will be fully functional early next year.

2. Pain Service Referrals and ACC

Just like GPs, Health Waikato is funded by ACC for accident related services and requires the ACC number to process the claim. Thank you for ensuring that the ACC claim number accompanies any accident related referral. The pain service, in particular, has requested a reminder about this. It is also very helpful to state on the referral if it is **not** ACC related.

3. Haematology Guidelines

Many of you were able to attend the peer groups during May at which the haematologists introduced primary care management guidelines for haemochromatosis, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and monoclonal gammopathy.

Humphrey, Gillian and Phillip enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many of the local GP community. Hopefully the guidelines will be useful tools in day to day practice. They will also be used in a supportive way by the haematologists to provide management advice where clinic attendance may be avoided. Courtesy of Pinnacle, some additional "pearls of wisdom" from the presentations will be circulated to everyone in the near future, as well as copies of the guidelines for those who could not get to the meetings.

4. Headache and TIA Guidelines

The use of these guidelines, which were introduced in July 2004, has recently been evaluated. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire. In general responses from both GPs and neurologists have been positive. The neurologists feel that they are receiving more complete information on referral letters, which has helped provide the most appropriate service to patients.

5. Foundation 2020

Foundation 2020 is an independent body set up to work with public, community groups, businesses and health professionals to raise funds for hospital facilities, equipment and related healthcare initiatives not provided for by the health service. The Foundation particularly wants to support the highly specialised, tertiary services provided to the populations of the Midland District Health Boards. The foundation is yet to have its official launch, but the Chiefs rugby team has already adopted Foundation 2020 as its official charity for the next 3 years. The foundation has however chosen its first major project – to support the building of a new 66-bed facility at Waikato Hospital specifically designed for children.

6. Service and Campus Redevelopment (SCR)

The SCR project has achieved two major milestones during May:

i. On 19 April the Thames Hospital Preliminary Design was signed off at a value management workshop held at the Thames War Memorial. Approximately 50 staff and community representatives gave the 'green light' to the SCR Project team to proceed to construction, subject to four conditions being satisfied. By 4 May, these conditions were satisfied making signoff 'official.' Demolition work at Thames Hospital begins in June and construction of the inpatient unit starts on 1 November.

ii. Waikato Hospital's SCR Principles on Ambulatory Services workgroup met for the first time on 4 May. This workshop was the first step in the process to develop services and facility design for the new Waikato Clinical Centre. The outcome of this process, which involves a variety of additional workgroup meetings over the coming weeks, will be the delivery of a brief to architects who will begin designing the centre.

7. Construction of new linac bunker begins

Construction has started on the new bunker to house an additional linear accelerator (linac) at Waikato Hospital. This will be the regional cancer centre's fourth linac and will help meet projected future demand for radiation therapy. Construction will take approximately 40 weeks and the road in front of the cancer centre will be closed during that period. A new campus map is included for your information. These maps are available to patients and visitors at the main entrances to the hospital and on the website. You are welcome to copy this for your patients who have upcoming appointments at Waikato Hospital.

Welcome to...

Simione Lolohea, general surgery. Simi, who has an interest in colorectal and laparoscopic surgery, has joined the general surgery team, having completed his surgical training in Wellington, Christchurch and Australia. He is a keen rugby fan and enjoys a spot of golf and windsurfing.

And farewell to...

Clive Bensemman, adult mental health, who leaves the Waikato to resume clinical practice closer to his Auckland home. In his role as clinical services director, he has been particularly committed to quality improvement in the mental health service and to developing networks with other providers.

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	Central auditory processing test	12 months
	Urgent	3 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Semi-urgent	10-12 months
	*BCC Imaging	2 weeks
Cardiology	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
	Routine	1-2 months
Colposcopy	Urgent	2-9 months
	Semi-urgent	9-12 months
	Routine	1-2 months
	Invasive	Within 7 days
Dental	High grade	4 weeks
	Low grade	26 weeks +
	Non cervical	26 weeks +
	Urgent	24 hours
Dermatology (1)	Semi-urgent	3 weeks
	Routine	2 months
	Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	24 hours
Paediatric Dermatology	Urgent	6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6 months
Hands	Routine	7 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	1-3 weeks
Gastro-enterology	Urgent	Up to 6 months
	Semi-urgent (children)	Up to 8 months
	Semi-urgent (adults)	1-3 weeks
General Medicine	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-6 weeks
	Routine	1-2 weeks
General Surgery	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	11-12 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3-5 months
	Routine	11-12 months
Haematology	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	6-7 months
Maxillo-facial	Urgent	2-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6-4 weeks
	Routine	4-10 months
Neurology	DVT	4 months
	Urgent	Within 24 hours
	Semi-urgent	Within 1 week
Neurology	Routine	2 months
	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
Plastics (1) Fax immediate/acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Rheumatology	2 days (urgent)
	Women's Health	2-3 weeks (routine)
	Urgent	2 weeks
Plastics Lesion clinic	Semi-urgent	4 months
	Routine	6 months +
	Rehabilitation	Day Clinic
Renal	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-4 weeks
	Routine	2-4 months
Respiratory	Urgent	4-6 months
	Semi-urgent	1-2 months
	Routine	1-4 weeks
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 OPHTHALMOLOGY – 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.

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