

1. Leg Ulcer Referrals

A recent situation has illustrated that there may be some confusion over which service leg ulcers ought to be referred to. Chris Holdaway, Head of Surgery, advises that all leg ulcers, with the exception of those that are obviously malignant or obviously neuropathic with bounding pulses, should be referred to vascular surgery. This reflects the fact that 90% will have a vascular or vasculitic aetiology and applies to both acute and outpatient clinic referrals.

2. Reduction in Vascular Laboratory Service

Due to the limited resources available and an unmanageable workload, the Vascular Laboratory, who perform vascular ultrasounds including carotid doppler studies, has had to restrict services to only those referrals received from the Vascular Surgery Department. Unfortunately they will be unable to accept referrals directly from GPs or from other hospital specialist services. Referrals that are held by the Vascular Laboratory and do not meet these criteria will be returned to the referrer.

The radiology service is able to provide a limited scope of vascular ultrasound. They currently perform DVT scans and urgent carotid ultrasound, although GPs are not able to request these directly and access would still be via the emergency department in urgent situations.

A plan is in place to improve the situation but this will take time. The Vascular Laboratory offer their apologies for this change.

3. Neurology Waiting List Review

A number of factors have recently contributed to a lengthening waiting list and increasing waiting times for patients referred to the neurology department. Over the last few weeks the GP Liaison has been assisting the department to review their waiting list to ensure, amongst other things, that all those on the list still need a neurological assessment by discussing their current situation with the referring doctor. Thank you

very much to everyone who has been contacted for their assistance.

The circumstances of a substantial proportion of those discussed with GPs, particularly of those waiting for the longest periods of time, had changed so that they no longer needed an appointment. If you are aware that a patient's situation has changed and a new outpatient appointment has become unnecessary, please let the referral co-ordination centre know. These patients will then be removed from the waiting list, resulting in appointments being conserved for those who will most benefit from them.

The department will continue to manage neurology waiting times carefully and endeavour to see patients within 6 months of referral. Constraints on available outpatients appointments may continue to impact on ability to offer appointment to all referrals, but the neurology service hopes to establish other strategies to assist GPs to manage patients in the community where that is appropriate.

4. Farewell to..

Pierre de Villiers, General Physician, who is returning to Tauranga Hospital. His clinical skills and good humour will be missed.

5. Referral Co-ordination Centre

A reminder that from 28th August 2006 all Waikato DHB elective referrals (excluding Mental Health and Community Health) go through the new Referral Co-ordination Centre, including those for rural hospitals (Thames, Taumarunui, Tokoroa and Te Kuiti) are to be faxed to **07 839 8817**. Fliers and stickers have been sent to practices. Please contact Outreach if you have not received these or wish to have more.

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
	Central auditory processing test	12 months
Breast Care	Urgent	3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1 month
	*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
	Routine	6 months
Paediatric Dermatology		7 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent	7 days
	Semi-urgent	4 weeks
	Routine	6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent	1-3 months
	Semi-urgent	3-5 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	1-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent (children)	4-5 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	1-5 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6 months
	Routine	6 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 3 weeks
	Routine	3 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
Neurosurgery	Urgent	Within 1 month
	Semi-urgent	Within 6 months

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Oncology and Medical	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	25-35 working days
	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
Radiation	Priority 3	50-60 working days
	Urgent	within 1 month
	Urgent laser	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent – Children	within 6 months
Ophthalmology	Semi-urgent – Adults	6 months
	Semi-urgent (diabetic)	1 month
	Minor Operation Clinic	within 6 months
Orthopaedic	General – Urgent	1-6 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 Medicine	Paediatric Gait Clinic	1-6 weeks
	Urgent	3-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2 months
Paediatric Surgical	Routine	3 months
	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	Within 2 weeks
Pain clinic	Routine	3-4 weeks
	Urgent	Up to 3 months
	Semi-urgent	Up to 5 months
Physiotherapy	Routine	6 months
	General musculoskeletal	5 days (urgent) 6-8 weeks (routine)
	Respiratory	2-3 weeks
	Rheumatology	4 weeks
Plastics (1) Fax immediate / acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Women's Health	2 days (urgent) 2-3 weeks (routine)
	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4 months
Plastics Lesion clinic	Routine	6 months +
	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4 months
Rehabilitation	Day Clinic (Physio Only)	6 months +
Renal		1-3 weeks
	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 months
Respiratory	Routine	4-6 months
	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-2 months
Rheumatology (3)	Routine	4-6 months
	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-2 months
Thyroid	Routine	2-4 months
	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4 months
Ultrasound	Routine	4-6 months
	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-3 months
Urology	Routine	3-6 months
		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		
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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