

### **1. GP Initiated Intravenous Cellulitis Management**

By the end of February general practice teams had treated 188 patients through this programme. These patients would otherwise have had to make a trip to the emergency department to access treatment. Almost 80% had their treatment delivered by general practice or accident and medical centre teams.

To ensure the process continues to work well for you and your patients please;

- Remind your patients that, in order to slow excretion of cefazolin so that it can be given only once daily, probenecid must be taken at the same time as cefazolin is delivered.
- Replacement kits are provided only by Waikato Hospital pharmacy by faxing the Cellulitis Kit Re-order Form to the number on the form. Please be sure to fully complete the form. The information is needed for evaluation of the programme and to support the case for on going funding.
- As soon as you have used a kit, fax in a re-order form and a replacement will be couriered out to you. There is a copy of the form in each medication kit and it is also available on the website at [www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/GP](http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/GP).
- Advise your practice nurses that information on reconstitution of cefazolin is available on the Medsafe website [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)

### **2. Labelling Laboratory Samples and Forms**

Laboratories have an obligation to ensure that samples are labelled correctly and that request forms are adequately completed to ensure safe processing and interpretation of results. Waikato DHB laboratories request the following as a minimum:

- Two unique patient identifiers e.g. Full name, DOB, NHI on **both** the sample and request form
- Report destination
- Full name and location for extra report destinations
- Legible name/identifier of authorised requestor to allow prompt notification of results / interpretation / delays where appropriate
- Collection time and date to confirm specimen validity and for correct result interpretation
- Legible name/identifier of sample collector (rubberstamp preferred) so that the laboratory can quickly contact the collector when required e.g. labelling error.
- What tests are required
- The sample type (for anything that is not blood)
- The anatomical site of origin where appropriate
- Appropriate clinical information (and drug therapy as appropriate) to ensure optimal analysis and clinical interpretation

In the interests of patient safety, specimens that are not appropriately labelled, or are not accompanied by appropriately completed forms, cannot be

processed. However critical or irreplaceable samples may be processed after discussion with laboratory staff. Thank you for your assistance with this.

### **3. Optometrist Project Update**

Since June 2006 optometrists have been able to refer suitable cataract patients onto the operative waiting list providing the referral letter contains sufficiently comprehensive information. Optometrist referrals letters are assessed by a specialist ophthalmologist and the clinical information collated with the results of a social questionnaire by the nurse assessor. Those patients who fulfil the necessary criteria are placed directly onto the waiting list for cataract surgery without the need to be seen in the outpatient clinic.

All Optometrists and GPs within the Waikato DHB area were sent information about the new process in the middle of last year and Optometrists were provided with special referral forms.

Patients have the option either to see an Optometrist privately who can then follow the process outlined above, or to be referred by their GP as previously and wait for a first specialist appointment in the clinic.

The system has had a positive outcome for patients with most of those referred by optometrists progressing directly to the cataract surgery waiting list which, in turn, frees up outpatient appointments for other patients.

### **4. Referral Assistance Appreciated**

Inclusion of up to date telephone numbers, including mobile, is very much appreciated by clinic staff. To maximise use of available appointments many clinics phone patients to remind them of appointments and to fill cancelled appointments as quickly as possible.

Recent review of a number of clinic waiting lists has revealed significant numbers of patients who no longer need to be seen. Clinics are very grateful for being informed if there is a change in a patient's circumstances and an appointment is no longer required. The appointment can then be given to someone else.

### **5. Dermatology Outpatient Department**

Plastic surgery would appreciate if all referrals for lesion be accompanied by a punch biopsy and digital photograph. Dermatology would appreciate digital photographs with all lesion referrals. This will allow accurate, quick and appropriate prioritisation of all lesion referrals for both services.

### **6. Road Works at Waikato Hospital site**

Visitors need to allow more time and follow the signs. A map is included with Outreach for you to note and display in your practice.

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 *BCC Imaging	1 month 2 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Urgent	1-3 weeks
Cardiology	Semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
	Urgent	1-2 months
Colposcopy	Semi-urgent	2-6 months
	Routine	6 months
	Invasive	Within 7 days
Dental	High grade	4 weeks
	Low grade	26 weeks +
	Non cervical	26 weeks +
Dermatology (1) Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	24 hours
	Semi-urgent	3 weeks
	Routine	2 months
Paediatric Dermatology		5 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent	7 days
	Semi-urgent	4 weeks
	Routine	6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent	1 month
	Semi-urgent	2 month
	Routine	5 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	1-6 weeks
Gastro-enterology	Urgent	4-5 months
	Semi-urgent (children)	6 months
General Medicine	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-6 weeks
General Surgery	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-4 weeks
	Routine	2-3 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-5 months
	Routine	6 months
Haematology	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6 months
	Routine	6 months
	DVT	2-8 weeks 6-4 weeks 4-10 months 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	30-35 working days
Radiation	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	25-30 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) Minor Operation Clinic	1 month 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 Gait Clinic		1-6 weeks
Paediatric Medicine	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	3-6 months
Paediatric Surgical	Urgent	2-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4-6 weeks
	Routine	8-12 weeks
Pain clinic	Urgent	Up to 1 month
	Semi-urgent	Up to 3 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	4 months
	Routine	6 months
Rehabilitation	Day Clinic (Physio Only)	1-3 weeks
	Day Clinic (OT)	1-3 weeks
	Rehab Clinic (Physio)	1-3 weeks
	Rehab Clinic (OT)	1-3 weeks
	Rehab Clinic (Neuropsychologist)	
	Urgent	1-3 weeks
Semi-urgent	1-6 months	
Routine	2 years	
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	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-3 months
	Routine	3-6 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
<b>Adult Mental Health Waiting Times</b>		
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.