

Waikato Newborn Hearing Screening Programme Update

The Waikato Newborn Hearing Screening Programme has now been operating for over three years. More than 12,000 babies have been screened to date.

The programme is presently running very effectively. Screening coverage of all babies born at Waikato Hospital, the two Hamilton birth centres (River Ridge East and Waterford), Thames and Taumarunui is now over 90%.

A rural pilot to cover the Thames and Taumarunui areas commenced in October 2005. Since mid May 2007 funding from the Ministry of Health has enabled screening in the rural areas of Matamata, Huntly, Morrinsville, Te Kuiti, Te Awamutu and Tokoroa.

Parents continue to be very supportive of the programme, and statistics show that less than 1% have declined to have their child screened.

The Newborn Hearing Screeners endeavour to contact all parents of babies who are missed, to offer them an outpatient screening appointment. To date 14 babies with permanent bilateral hearing loss have been detected, four of which have profound hearing loss. Two of these babies have gone on to have cochlear implants. Based on age of detection statistics for hearing loss in the Waikato region prior to the implementation of a Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, these children would previously have been detected at school age. Through provision of early intervention services, these children will have significantly improved outcomes for speech and language development and educational achievement – equivalent to their normal hearing peers.

From July this year, Waikato will be one of three DHBs undertaking newborn hearing screening as part of a three-year roll-out of the national Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme. The national programme aims to offer screening to newborns across New Zealand by 2009

If you would like more information about the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Forsman, Programme Manager NBHS or Lan Weir, Acting Charge Audiologist Ph: 839 8794

National Travel Assistance (NTA) Scheme

Assistance with travel costs to access medical care is governed by the National Travel Assistance Scheme. It provides financial assistance to people who are referred by their specialist (not a GP) to see another specialist. Both specialists must be part of a publicly funded health and disability support service. Eligibility depends on the distance travelled, frequency of the travel and whether the patient is a child or adult.

Comprehensive information is available on the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.govt.nz/travelassistance.

Vaccination information

Community Services have had some difficulty loading school year 7 (MMR etc) immunisation data onto the MOH school based vaccination data base. As a result they have been unable to send completed data to GPs. Fortunately the data base is now up and running, data is being uploaded and completed schedules will be ready for GPs by the end of July. In the meantime if you require information about the immunisation status of individual children please contact the Regional Referral Centre on 07 834 3370.

Welcome to Ruth Large, Emergency Physician, joining Thames Hospital and Jennifer Rankin, Medical Officer in Psychiatry, joining the adult Mental Health Team.

Farewell and thank you to Donna Woolerton, breast physician, who has been working with the breast service.

Progress on SCR Project

Service and Campus Redevelopment at Waikato and Thames Hospitals continue to make good progress.

Waikato Hospital

We will continue to face some disruptions to routes around Waikato Hospital while road works and construction zones are active.

The Car Park and Entry is due to be completed and open in late October. This will also allow for the opening of the Transit Lounge. The completed building will provide a new main access into Waikato Hospital for almost all visitors, outpatients and elective patients, and will provide a pick up point for those being discharged (via the new Transit Lounge.)

Site preparation for a new Emergency Department will start in August, which will mean changes in access to Emergency Department and Bryant Education Centre. Building of the new Emergency Department will start in mid January 2008.

Delivery Suite/Women's Assessment Unit upgrade and development work will create a new construction area from late October. We will notify you of any specific requests closer to that time.

The Referral Coordination Centre (RCC) has expanded to cope with demand of the increasing number of referrals being received. The number of staff working in the centre has increased and they are hoping to extend hours of operation to 8pm at night.

Thames Hospital

The first major construction stage is underway, including a new clinical centre with emergency department, radiology and outpatients, and a 54 bed in-patient unit. This work is planned for completion by late 2008.

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Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Audiology	Children 9-32 mths Under 17 years Children's hearing aids Adult diagnostic tests Adult hearing aids Central auditory processing test	2 months 2-3 months 4 weeks 4 months 6 months 6 months
Breast Care	Urgent Semi-urgent *BCC Imaging Urgent only	3 weeks 3 month 2 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Urgent Semi-urgent	1-3 weeks 3-6 weeks
Cardiology	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-2 months 2-6 months 6 months
Colposcopy	Invasive High grade Low grade Non cervical	Within 7 days 4 weeks 26 weeks + 26 weeks +
Dental	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	24 hours 3 weeks 2 months
Dermatology (1) Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	24 hours 6 weeks 6 months
Paediatric Dermatology		5 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	7 days 4 weeks 6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1 month 2 month 5 months
Diabetes Nurse Educator	Urgent Semi-urgent	Within 7 days Within 6 weeks
Endocrinology	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-2 months 2-6 months 9-12 months
Endoscopy/Colonoscopy Medical	Urgent Semi-Urgent	4-6 weeks 4-6 weeks
Surgical	Urgent Semi-urgent	4-6 weeks 24 months
ENT	Urgent Semi-urgent (children) Semi-urgent (adults)	1-6 weeks 4-5 months 6 months
Gastro-enterology	Urgent Semi-urgent	2-4 weeks 2-6 weeks
General Medicine	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-2 weeks 2-4 weeks 2-3 months
General Surgery	Urgent Semi urgent	1-4 weeks 1-5 months
Gynaecology	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	2-4 weeks 6 months 6 months
Haematology	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine DVT	2-8 weeks 6-4 weeks 4-10 months 4 months
Maxillo-facial	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	Within 24 hours Within 3 weeks 3 months
Neurology	Urgent Semi-urgent EMG urgent Routine EEG urgent routine	1-3 months 3-10 months 1-4 months 4-6 months 2-8 weeks 2-6 months
Neurosurgery	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	Within 1 month Within 6 months
Oncology and Medical	Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3	1-2 days 5-10 working days 25-30working days
Radiation	Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3	1-2 days 5-10 working days 20-25working days

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
Ophthalmology	Urgent Urgent laser Semi-urgent – Children Semi-urgent – Adults Semi-urgent (diabetic) Minor Operation Clinic	within 1 month 1-3 weeks within 6 months 6 months 1 month within 6 months
Orthopaedic	General – Urgent Semi-urgent Routine Paediatrics – Urgent Semi-urgent Routine Paediatric Gait Clinic	1-6 weeks Up to 3 months Up to 6 months 1-6 weeks Up to 4 months Up to 6 months 1-6 weeks
Paediatric Medicine	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-2 months 3 months 3-6 months
Paediatric Surgical	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	2-4 weeks 4-6 weeks 8-12 weeks
Pain clinic	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	Up to 1 month Up to 3 months 6 months
Physiotherapy	General musculoskeletal Respiratory Rheumatology Women's Health	5 days (urgent) 6-8weeks (routine) 2-3 weeks 4 weeks 2 days (urgent) 2-3weeks (routine)
Plastics (1) Fax immediate / acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	2 weeks 4 months 6 months
Plastics Lesion clinic	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	2 weeks 4 months 6 months
Rehabilitation	Day Clinic (Physio Only) Day Clinic (OT) Rehab Clinic (Physio) Rehab Clinic (OT) Rehab Clinic (Neuropsychologist)	1-3 weeks 1-3 weeks 1-3 weeks 1-3 weeks
	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-3 weeks 1-6 months 2 years
Renal	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-4 weeks 2-4 months 4-6 months
Respiratory	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-4 weeks 1-2 months 4-6 months
Rheumatology (3)	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-4 weeks 1-2 months 2-4 months
Thyroid	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	2-4 weeks 4 months 4-6 months
Ultrasound	Very Urgent Urgent Priority Routine Non-urgent	1 week 2 weeks 4 weeks 5 weeks 6 weeks
Urology		Within 2 months
Vascular	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-4 weeks 2-4 months 4-6 months
Vascular Surgery	Urgent Semi-urgent Routine	1-4 weeks 2-4 months 4-6 months
Adult Mental Health Waiting Times		
Community mental health team	Crisis referrals Non-crisis/routine	Within 24 hours 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.