

1. Rheumatic Fever – sore throats do matter, get them checked!

The Population Health Service will be using this message to promote awareness of “strep throat” and rheumatic fever. The simple step of swabbing a sore throat can prevent serious heart damage and years of prolonged treatment.

The National Heart Foundation has developed best practice primary prevention guidelines including “Group A Streptococcal Sore Throat Management”. This guideline specifies:

- when to perform a throat swab
- when to prescribe an antibiotic
- which antibiotic to prescribe and length of treatment.
-

The guidelines can be viewed at: <http://www.nhf.org.nz/index.asp?PageID=2145827300>

For further information, please contact Lindsay Lowe at Waikato DHB Population Health Service, 07 8382569 Ext 2039; email lowel@waikatodhb.govt.nz

2. Women’s Assessment Unit and Delivery Suite upgrade progress

The first phase of the upgrade to the Women’s Assessment Unit and Delivery Suite will be complete and operational by 29 July 2008. This completed phase includes temporary relocation of the Women’s Assessment Unit and a new Delivery Suite theatre. Work will now move on to the upgrade of the rest of Delivery Suite, scheduled for completion in mid December 2008. The entry to both areas has not changed: the front entrance into the Elizabeth Rothwell Building (Women’s Hospital) is from Pembroke Street. Delivery suite is to the left and the Women’s Assessment Unit to the right off the main entrance foyer.

3. Offering the private option

It can be difficult to know, without specifically asking, which patients might choose a private outpatient assessment. On a number of occasions recently the ENT service has discovered that patients who have waited several months for an outpatient appointment and then need a surgical procedure, have medical insurance and are willing to use it. Thank you for remembering to offer the option of private referral to patients so that they can make the choice.

4. ACC numbers

Missing ACC numbers cause the same frustrations for both GPs and our secondary colleagues. In response to recent GP feedback, hospital services have been reminded of the importance of including ACC numbers on discharge summaries and other communications. They are very grateful when GPs reciprocate by including ACC numbers on referrals, for obvious administrative reasons, as well as for patient convenience.

5. Unmet need

Thank you to all everyone who completed the recently circulated questionnaire on unmet need. The number of responses was impressive and very useful information was received as a result of the unique perspective that GPs have on this issue. The information will now be used, along with that from other sources, to identify the main gaps and how these could be addressed.

6. Pharmacy news

- Fiona McNabb, who has extensive experience in both community and hospital pharmacy, has been appointed to the newly established pharmacy liaison role. She will be involved in developing closer working relationships between hospital and community pharmacy which should have some positive spin offs for GPs.
- Our Waikato pharmacist colleagues from both community and hospital featured prominently at the recent annual ProPharma Pharmacy awards. Nic Ellinger (senior pharmacy technician, Waikato Hospital) won the Technician of the Year award; Gemma Waterhouse (pharmacist, Morrinsville) won Young Pharmacist of the Year award and the supreme award; and Cath Knapton (Waikato Community Pharmacy Group) won the Innovation in Pharmacy Practice, Community award.

7. Welcome....

Richard Reid, general and hepato-biliary surgeon
Rick Fielding, renal physician

8. Farewell to...

Jeremy Long, Oncology. After 8 years at Waikato Hospital, during which he has made a significant contribution to services to oncology patients, Jeremy has moved on to new challenges across the Tasman.

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	3 months
	Adult hearing aids	2 months
	Central auditory processing test	6 months
Breast Care	Urgent	3 weeks
	Semi-urgent *BCC Imaging Urgent only	3 month 2 weeks
Cardiac Surgery	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
Cardiology	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	2-6 months
	Routine	6 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	3 months
Dermatology (1) Fax urgent referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	Within 5 days
	Semi-urgent	4 months
	Routine	6 months
Paediatric Dermatology		5 months
Dermatology Lesion Clinic	Urgent	7 days
	Semi-urgent	4 weeks
	Routine	6 months
Diabetes Consultant (2)	Urgent	1-4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	Within 6 months
Diabetes Nurse Educator	Urgent	Within 7 days
	Semi-urgent	Within 6 weeks
Endocrinology	Urgent	6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6 months
	Routine	Within 6 months
Endoscopy/Colonoscopy Medical	Urgent	4-6 weeks
	Semi-Urgent	4-6 weeks
	Urgent	4-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent	12-18 months
Surgical	Urgent	1-6 weeks
	Semi-urgent (children)	6 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	2-6 months
Gynaecology	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	6 months
Haematology	Urgent	2-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	6-4 weeks
	Routine	4-6 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	5 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
	Routine	
Older Persons & Rehabilitation Service	Assessment & Outpatients	
	Geriatrician Clinic	1-3 weeks
	PT Clinic	1-3 weeks
	OT Clinic	1-3 weeks
	Rehabilitation Clinic	
	PT Clinic	1-3 weeks
OT Clinic	1-3 weeks	
	Rehabilitation Physician Clinic	1-3 weeks

Clinic	Category	Waiting Time
	(Neuropsychologist)	
	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	Semi-urgent	1-6 months
	Routine	2 years
Oncology and Medical	Priority 1	1-2 days
	Priority 2	5-10 working days
	Priority 3	35-40 working days
	Priority 1	1-2 days
Radiation	Priority 1	5-10 working days
	Priority 2	20-25 working days
	Priority 3	
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	1-8 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 CDH/DDH Assess	NB: referrals maybe initially seen by a Generalist Orthopaedic Surgeon Within 3 months 1-6 weeks
Paediatric Medicine	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	3-6 months
Paediatric Surgical	Urgent	2-4 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) 6-8weeks (routine)
	Respiratory	5 days (urgent) 4 weeks (semiurgent)
	Rheumatology	4 weeks
	Women's Health	5 days (urgent) 3-4 weeks (routine)
	Continence	6 months
Plastics (1) Fax immediate / acute referrals to 07 839 8670	Urgent	Within 2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	3 months
	Routine	5 months
Plastics Lesion clinic	Urgent	2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2 months
	Routine	4 months
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	5 weeks
	Semi-urgent	5 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Ultrasound	Very Urgent	1 week
	Urgent	2 weeks
	Priority	4 weeks
	Routine	3 months
	Non-urgent	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
Adult Mental Health Waiting Times		
Triage (face to face or phone triage)	Crisis referrals	Within 24 hours
	Non-crisis/routine	Within 2 weeks

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.

Linda Rademaker, GP Liaison - Telephone 07 839 8899 ext 23085, Fax 07 839 8810, Mobile 021 549 790

Email rademakl@waikatodhb.govt.nz

July 2008