

Dear General Practitioners,

There are a couple of GPs who spend some of their days off observing in hospital clinics. It made me wonder whether we GPs should offer to have registrars or specialists spend an occasional half day in general practice. If you would like to host a hospital doctor please let me know and I will see if any are interested in seeing how we work in general practice.

Introduction to Insulin Classes for commencing/introducing people to insulin therapy as an outpatient have been scheduled for 2010. Please register your patients with the diabetes service Phone 2181949 Extn 8542 or 8448

Liz Kelly and Donna Madden (Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialists) appreciate referrals which contain current medications and recent blood results especially HbA1c.

Your patients would also benefit from putting a profile of blood tests together over the previous week. Testing both pre and 2 hrs post meals (not all of the tests every day but rotating around the 3 main meals).

Invercargill

At the PHO 40 Clyde Street, Invercargill

Friday	29 th January	0930-1200hrs
Thursday	11 th March	0930-1200hrs
Thursday	20 th May	0930-1200hrs
Friday	16 th July	0930-1200hrs
Wednesday	15 th September	1330-1600hrs
Monday	29 th November	1330-1600hrs

Gore

In Gore hospital seminar room

Friday	19 th February	1000-1230 hours
Tuesday	4 th May	1000-1230
Wednesday	25 th August	1000-1239
Friday	19 th November	1000-1230

The Medical division is fully staffed with specialists at the moment but short on registrars.

The Surgical division has some areas of real strength (General Surgery and Urology) and some areas where waiting lists are longer (ENT and Orthopaedics). As a result of the project to reorganise colonoscopy and endoscopy services the waiting list for these has dropped from 607 in January 2009 to 277 in December. This translates to a significant reduction in waiting times for patients.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology has more staff at the moment. Dr Patrick Nugent is here full time for a year. Unfortunately the waiting list has built up while the department was short staffed.

ENT Ear nose and throat service (or Otorhinolaryngology - ORL) is being reorganised as a regional service.

H1N1 Pandemic update

You will have seen the information from Public Health South which has just come out. Experts are predicting that the incidence of H1N1 influenza has probably peaked in the northern hemisphere. The Ministry of Health anticipates the second wave in the southern hemisphere to arrive earlier than the usual winter "flu", it may be as early as April 2010. We have posted a copy of the letter from Public Health South, along with copies of the notification form and the list of pharmacies providing oseltamivir on the GP Liaison page of the SDHB website so you can access these whenever you want them. www.sdhb.govt.nz under "For Health Providers" and "GP Liaison".

EDIS is the information system being used in the Emergency department now. Most GPs I have spoken to say they really appreciate the fact the discharge summaries from ED are now legible and scanable. Some of you will have been puzzled by some nearly empty pages. These seem to occur when the patient is seen by a registrar and admitted or referred to an Outpatient clinic. We are looking at ways of making the paperwork more user friendly in these instances.

Web-based health information is a growth industry. At a recent GP Liaison meeting I heard of an interesting site healthnavigator at www.hn.org.nz which has some interesting self help information for patients which has been chosen for its usefulness and relevance in New Zealand.

Medical Imaging has had a catch up on routine xrays so you will see its waiting list has reduced considerably.

Have a Happy and Safe Christmas.

Estimated Waiting times for a First Specialist Assessment – December 2009

Speciality	Priority	Estimated Wait
Audiology	All referrals	2-3 months
Cardiology	Urgent	6-8 weeks
	Semi-urgent	8-12 weeks
	Routine	5-6 months
Dental	Adult routine	6-12 months
	Child Routine	2-3 months
Dermatology	Urgent	4-8 weeks
	S-urgent	3-4 months
	Routine	6-8 months
Diabetes	Urgent	1 month
	Routine	9 months
Endocrinology	Routine	6 months
ENT	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	S-urgent	6 months
	Routine	12 months
Gastroenterology Medical OP	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	Semiurgent	3 months
	Routine	4-5 months
Gastroscopy	A	3-4 weeks
	A/B	6-8 weeks
	B and C	6 and 9 months
Colonoscopy	A	3-4 weeks
	A/B	4-6 weeks
	B	3-4 months
	C	6 months
General Medicine		Within one month
Gynaecology	urgent	6-8 weeks
	S-urgent	4-6 months
	Routine	8-10 months
Neurology	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	S-urgent	2-6 weeks
	Routine	4-6 months

Speciality	Priority	Estimated Wait
Maxillofacial surgery	All referrals	No waiting list
Neurosurgery	Urgent	Within 1 month
	S-urgent	Within 1 month
	Routine	6 months
Ophthalmology	Urgent	1-2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-6 months
	S-urgent cataract	1-3 months
	Routine cataract	3-4 months
Orthopaedics	Urgent	0-3 months
	S-urgent	3-6 months
	Routine	12 months
Renal Medicine	Urgent	2-4 weeks
	S-urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Paediatric surgery	Routine	3 months
Paediatrics Medical	Routine In'gill	6 months
	Gore	5 months
	Queenstown	7 months
Respiratory	Urgent	< 2 weeks
	Semi-urgent	2-8 weeks
	Routine	4-6 months
Rheumatology	Urgent	1-2 months
	Semi urgent	3-4 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Surgical Services	Urgent	Within 1 month
	S-urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	4-6 months
Urology	Urgent	1-3 weeks
	S-urgent	6-8 weeks
	Routine	3 months
Minor surgery	Urgent	4 weeks
	Semi-urgent	4-6 weeks
	Routine	3-4 months
AT and R	Urgent	< 4 weeks
	S-urgent	2-3 months
	Routine	< 6 months

Mental Health		
SMHET Invercargill Community Mental Health Team (ICMHT)		Same day triage Within two weeks
Rhanna		Contact made same day
CAFS		Urgent < 24hours Routine 1 month

Oncology		
Haematology	Semi-urgent	20 days approx
Oncology	Semi-urgent	24 days approx
Radiotherapy	Semi-urgent	20 days approx

Medical Imaging Waiting Times		
MRI	Urgent	Same day
	Semi-urgent	2-3 weeks
	ACC	15 working days
	Private	15 working days
	Routine	6 weeks
CT	Semi-urgent	1 weeks
	ACC	Within 10 days
	Private patients	Within 10 days
	Routine OP	6-7 weeks
Ultrasound	24-26 weeks	
Mammography	Recall patients	8 weeks
	Urgent	1-3 weeks
Nuclear Medicine	Urgent	2 week
	Semi-urgent	4 weeks
	ACC and Private	10 & 15 days
	Routine	4 weeks
	Cardiac scans	4 months
X-ray appointments	X-ray	3 weeks
	Urgent	please phone MRTs ext 8459
IVU	4-6 weeks	
Ba. F Thru / Ba Enemas	4-6 weeks	

Diagnostic testing		
ECGs, spirometry, arterial brachial indices, Ambulatory BPs	urgent	1 week
	semi urgent	2 weeks
	routine	4 weeks
Holters	urgent,	2-3 weeks
	semi-urgent	3-6 weeks
	routine	6-8 weeks
Echocardiograms	4-6 weeks (ref via Cardiology)	
Sleep studies:	3 months (ref via Respiratory)	
Nerve conduction studies	Refer to Peter Taylor at Windsor Specialist Centre and clearly mark whether private, public or ACC. 3 months	