

G.P. Newsletter

Counties Manukau Primary Care

General Practice Newsletter from Counties Manukau DHB
and Middlemore Hospital..... July 2010

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Elective Services

GP Help Desk:

Ph 270 4723

Fax 277 1600

Vascular surgery

The Vascular Surgical Service at CMDHB is part of the department of General Surgery.

The team includes four Vascular Surgeons (Mr Caldwell, Mr Cox, Mr Adams and Mr Mahadevan), providing 24/7 cover for all vascular emergencies as well as a comprehensive outpatient service.

Vascular emergencies include:

- Aortic aneurysm – treated using both open surgical and endovascular techniques.
- Neurological events secondary to carotid Disease - treated with carotid endarterectomy under local or general anaesthetic and performed within two weeks of referral. When indicated, carotid stenting is performed by the Interventional Radiologist.
- Critical Limb ischaemia – treated with anticoagulation plus embolectomy/thrombectomy.

Acute referrals are largely directed through the on call General Surgical Registrar but the on call Vascular Surgeon is available for communication with GPs at all times and can be contacted through the switchboard. Alternatively the Vascular Nurse Specialist (Marion Gibson) can be contacted during office hours on 021 590 165.

We also provide comprehensive management for peripheral vascular disease, varicose veins, ulcers, vascular trauma, vascular access for haemodialysis and all other vascular conditions.

We currently perform close to 200 major arterial cases per year and our complication rates for this surgery is similar to rates at world

renowned units. All arterial and acute surgery is performed at the Middlemore Hospital site.

Varicose vein and renal access surgery is also undertaken at the Manukau Surgery Centre. Major cases are discussed at a weekly Multi-disciplinary Meeting involving the Interventional Radiology team.

Waiting times for clinics depends on the urgency of each case and is assessed from the information on the referral letter. All arterial cases can be seen within one month. Urgent outpatient referrals can be seen in the next clinic. We currently have clinics on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please fax referrals to 2771600.

Our Vascular Laboratory is an integral part of the service. It is located within the Vascular Outpatients Module at Manukau SuperClinic. Vascular Ultrasound has an important and expanding role in the management of almost all vascular conditions and confers the advantage of being non invasive and readily available. Referrals to the Vascular Laboratory should be faxed to 2771669

Please check out our HealthPoint page at www.healthpoint.co.nz. This provides additional detail on services provided and also has profiles on each of the Consultants, including mobile phone numbers.

We are committed to providing the very best service to the patients and GPs of South Auckland. We are very happy to receive your referrals and will be pleased to accept any suggestions for improvement to our service.



Diabetic retinal screening programme

The CMDHB community Diabetes Retinal screening programme has been managed by Counties Manukau for five years.

There are now *21,672 diabetic patients registered with the programme and another *10,617 diabetic patients are currently under the specialist care of the Ophthalmology team at MSC.

All retinal screening is done in the community by our two contracted providers Mangere Community Health trust and Gary Filer Optometrists.

Patients currently under the care of the ophthalmology specialist team will not require retinal screening in the community until they have been discharged from clinic follow up.

- All referral requests for retinal screening should be faxed to the MSC referrals centre 09 277 1600.
- Remember to provide recent HBA1C results, visual acuities and duration of diabetes.
- Referrals are graded and allocated to community provider either by GP practice or patient demographics.
- Approximate waiting time for photo screening is three months. Waiting time for pregnant diabetic women is two weeks
- Because we are a community based programme, patients who live in Otahuhu are screened by the Auckland Diabetes Centre at Greenlane. Referrals for these patient can be faxed to 09 307 4993.
- "Diabetes and your eyes" is a pamphlet developed for diabetic retinal screening and is available for purchase. Check out on www.healthpoint.co.nz Middlemore Hospital Ophthalmology and go to retinal screening to find the order form.
- All inquires are welcome, please contact Cheryl on 09 276 0044 ext 4754 or Radhika 09 250 8050.

*denotes figures taken from the CMDHB information system PIM.

Palliative care

New improved Hospice South Auckland web site www.hospice.co.nz or search Hospice South Auckland. Remember referrals can be made on line!

Educational opportunities. Include Genesis Oncology lecture series, CME points available, further information available via the web site. GP's and practice nurses welcome. First Thursday of each month between 7.30 and 8.30.

For health professionals seeking specific clinical information and guidance, sign into Health point.

Specialist GP advisory line available 24/7 on 027 210 7972.

Available to Hospice South Auckland caregivers.

Orientation to a family carer program (LINKS) commences in August if you know a caregiver that could benefit from this program and would like to attend. Contact the Nurse Education Robyn. Allen@hospice.co.nz or phone 6400214.

Smokefree health target

On 1 July 2010 the Health Target "better help for smokers to quit" will be introduced in Primary Care. Measuring achievement of the health target will require primary care practices to record against a set of 4 smoking cessation indicators that have been selected through the PHO Performance Programme. These are:

- 1 % of eligible population who have ever had a smoking status recorded
- 2 % of eligible population whose most recent smoking status is recorded as current smoker
- 3 % of current smokers who have been given brief advice in the last 12 months; and
- 4 % of current smokers who have been given or referred to cessation support services in the last 12 months

Read codes are currently being used for recording smoking status. Some practices are also already using the READ code 6791.00 for Brief Advice given.

New ZCPI codes will be available from 1 July 2010.

These are:

- ZPSB10 Brief smoking cessation advice was given
- ZPSC10 Referral to smoking cessation support
- ZPSC20 Prescribed smoking cessation medication
- ZPSC30 Provided smoking cessation behavioural support
- ZPSC90 Patient refused smoking cessation support

Remember to update the smoking status of each patient you see and, for those that are currently smoking be sure to offer advice and support in quitting. Even if the person is not ready to quit, you will be increasing motivation just by offering the advice and support.

This simple intervention has the potential to make a huge difference to the health of our population and can take less than 3 minutes of a clinician's time. As stated in the 2008 update of 'Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence' from the U.S. Public Health Service:

..It is difficult to identify any other condition that presents such a mix of lethality, prevalence, and neglect, despite effective and readily available interventions.

For more information about the smokefree health target contact your PHO. Alternatively you can contact Ingrid Minett at CMDHB Living Smokefree, on 259 3896.

Healthpoint

www.healthpoint.co.nz

NEW SERVICES

Vascular Surgery Service

Clinical and Referral information has been developed by the Vascular Surgery Team (including all consultants and nurse specialist) for GPs, PNs and other medical professionals within the CMDHB area. Information available:

- Referral Contact Details
- Staff Contact Details
- Referral Process for Acute and Non-Acute Referrals
- Scope of Vascular Surgery Service
- Consultant profiles
- Referral Guidelines for – Aneurysms, Carotid, Claudication, Critical Limb Ischaemia, Diabetic Foot, Peripheral Aneurysms, Ulcer and Varicose Veins
- Waiting times

Living Smokefree

Living Smokefree service information has been placed onto Healthpoint. If you have a patient that is going to be an inpatient or outpatient at Counties Manukau DHB, then you can refer your patient to this service. Go to Healthpoint for more information.

Auckland Regional Plastic Reconstructive and Hand Surgery

The Cleft Service Co-ordinator has added two guidelines for medical professionals:

- Cleft Lip and Palate Antenatal Referral Guideline - for medical professionals working with a pregnant woman and family whose antenatal scan indicates a baby with cleft lip and/or palate.
- Cleft Lip and Palate Newborn Referral Guideline - for medical health professionals working with a baby born with a cleft lip and/or palate.

General Practitioner & Practice Nurse Training Sessions

10 minute Healthpoint training sessions are available for GPs and Practice Nurses. During the training session, you will receive a username and password allowing you access to secure referral and clinical information for services. If you would like to arrange a training session at your practice, please contact:

Debbie Phillips, CMDHB Web Communications Co-ordinator
Ph: 09 276 0044 extn 9077 Email: Debbie.phillips@middlemore.co.nz

Cutaneous lupus prevalence study

Department of Dermatology, CMDHB. Paul Jarrett, DermatologistI would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and receptionists who patiently answered my many phone calls and checked patient details during the recent prevalence survey of cutaneous lupus. The study has now finished.

Thank you, I could not have done it without your help!

Kind regards, Paul

Referrals for bariatric patients

The inclusion criteria for bariatric surgery have changed recently once again. Once again this is due to the volume of referrals exceeding by a factor of about 5 the number of bariatric operations that we are able to perform. Our Bariatric Team have decided as a group to only accept referrals for patients who have non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. This decision is based on evidence that indicates this group is the most cost effective group to intervene on.

Unfortunately many deserving patients, all of whom would benefit a great deal from bariatric surgery, will miss out. There currently does not seem to be any way around this.

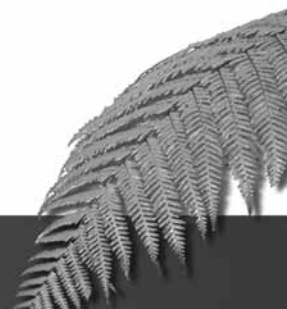
The new referral forms are available on the hospital intranet as well as on Healthpoint under the General Surgical heading for Medical Professionals. Please note we are still receiving a large number of referrals accompanied by out of date referral triage questionnaires.

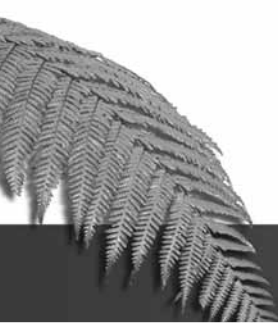
Bariatric research study

Bariatric research study in morbidly obese patients with diabetes

This study is now fully recruited. The Centre for Clinical Research and effective practice (CCRep) thank you for your assistance in referring patients and also for your ongoing care of the patients in the study.

Please send any future referrals for consideration of Bariatric Surgery to the Surgical Services, Middlemore Hospital.





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