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WellSouth Update

24 May 2022

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Please share this email with your colleagues. To subscribe and be added to our distribution list, email communications@wellsouth.org.nz Thank you.

GP direct referral for MRIs in Southern

General practitioners in Southern will soon be able to make direct referrals for MRI scans for patients with knee, lumbar (LSpine) or neck (C-Spine) injuries.

The new GP-referred MRI (GPMRI) service supports trained GPs, including GP registrars, and GP locums, to refer patients for MRI scans.

Already in place in Auckland, Canterbury and elsewhere in New Zealand, the service supports better patient care and outcomes, improves the quality of referrals to secondary, and reduces wait times for FSAs.

WellSouth is funded by ACC to deliver and manage programme, with Habit Health

providing training.

Referrals, funding and criteria

Referrals will be via ERMS and payments are \$129 + GST for patients meeting clinical criteria

[Clinical Guidelines – Lumbar Spine](#)

[Clinical Guidelines – Knee Pain](#)

[Clinical Guidelines – Cervical Spine](#)

Qualification and Training

Vocationally-registered general practitioners and GP registrars working in general practice who complete the 3-hour training session will be eligible to make MRI referrals. We are delivering 20 in-person training sessions across the district between June and October. Initial sessions are listed below and we will be adding training sessions in Alexandra, Balclutha, Gore, Invercargill, and Te Anau soon. We will continue to provide training sessions and updates as well.

- Dunedin - Wednesday 08 June, 6pm-9pm
- Oamaru - Thursday 16 June, 6pm-9pm
- Dunedin - Tuesday 21 June, 6pm-9pm
- Queenstown - Wednesday 29 June, 6pm-9pm
- Wanaka – Thursday 30 June, 6pm-9pm

(Refreshments provided from 5.30pm. Training begins promptly at 6pm, so please arrive early.)

Training includes:

- Clinical Guidelines – further detail
- Assessments - demonstration
- Referrals – process of referring via ERMS
- Claiming – quality control and auditing via the WellSouth portal

Registration is required and will be available via the [WellSouth Workforce Development](#) page in the coming days. We will promote the link as soon as it is available.

Recruiting - GP-Referred MRI Clinical Lead

WellSouth is recruiting a GP-Referred MRI Clinical Lead (0.2 FTE) to support the implementation and ongoing delivery of this programme.

If you have an interest in musculoskeletal medicine and are keen to help improve services delivered in primary care, please consider applying. Application closing date

Friday 10 June.

[More information and to apply.](#)

New GP direct access to CT Head pathway

With the recent addition of a second CT scanner at Dunedin Hospital, has led to the development of a GP-direct access CT Head pathway, to improve patient access to timely imaging to exclude serious causes in certain clinical situations.

The initiative is a collaboration by GP and Health Pathways Clinical Editor Kate Dixon, GP and Radiology Liaison, Nicola Garthwaite, Radiology Clinical Director Ben Wilson and Neurology Clinical Director Nick Cutfield.

The CT Head pathway will be launched on Monday 30th May 2022, and will enable GPs to refer directly for no-contrast CT head for headache in certain clinical situations.

This allows primary care providers to directly request outpatient CT Head scans for patients meeting the agreed criteria without the need for a referral to neurology.

Referrals don't need to be discussed with radiology prior to sending and will be triaged upon receipt.

The use of the pathway will be monitored and reviewed in 3-6 months to ensure appropriate implementation of the guidelines.

The Headaches in Adults pathway is updated to assist with assessment, management of these patients including information about interpretation of abnormal CT head findings.

BreastScreen Aotearoa available to help

The community screening team at BreastScreen Otago/Southland is available to assist with contacting and enrolling any eligible women in your practice who are not currently part of the programme.

If you would like to accept this offer of help please email

holly.adam@pacificradiology.com.

MMR vaccinations - SDHB assistance available

MMR is a potential threat for New Zealanders in particular our Māori, Pasifika and migrant communities. Due to the borders opening the risk of a measles / mumps outbreak is very real.

The Ministry of Health is Measles Campaign targets 15 to 32 year olds but anyone who

has not been vaccinated is eligible and funded for two MMR vaccinations.
Please refer any whānau who cannot get to their GP or pharmacy for a vaccination to MMR@southerndhb.govt.nz and who may be able to follow up offering home visits / other options to assist.

Questions: Contact Deborah Kay-Corkin, Southern DHB Measles Campaign

Coordinator: deborah.kay-corkin@southerndhb.govt.nz or 027 292 6366.

Promotional materials are also available.

NIS immunisation notifications in PMS - UPDATE

We have been made aware by some practices, that the automated process for transferring Immunisations from external providers to the vaccination status of their Practice Management System (PMS) isn't working as intended, so we are asking you to check your system to make sure it's not one of the PMSs affected.

If you are using a PMSs that means you must manually enter external Immunisation data into your PMS, then there is no need to check, please carry on manually transferring the data as per your usual process.

However, if you are using one of the PMSs where this process is more automated, then it would be prudent to check different types of immunisations to make sure the system is working correctly.

The reason we are asking you to check is there is a potential for the information to be missed by clinicians if it's not in the right place, and a person to possibly get double vaccinated, which confers some clinical risk.

If you find that there are issues, please feel free to email your practice relationship manager and we will pass on your query to the relevant PMS vendor and the Ministry.

Surgical mask, or N-95? That is the question

Just a reminder that the guidelines for when to use an N95 and when a surgical mask is sufficient is available on the [Ministry of Health web site](#).



We're backing you - World Smokefree Day - 31 May

World Smokefree Day is celebrated 31st May. The theme this year is “We’re Backing You” with a focus on the team effort to support whānau to quit and stay Smokefree. The key messages focus on whanaungatanga and wrap-around support, who provides it, and how. The theme is matched with a whakatauki - “Taituara, Taiwhare, Taieke” meaning with backing, even the tallest of oceans waves can be conquered. Promotional posters and social media resources are available for download [here](#).

Education

HealthPathways COVID-19
Primary Care Education Session



HealthPathways
Community

Webinar - 25 May - MoH Covid-19 Response Update for Primary Care

This webinar will focus on nationally relevant guidance for primary care clinicians managing COVID-19 patients in the community.

Ministry of Health
COVID-19 response update for primary care
Wednesday 25 May
7.00 pm – 8.15 pm

[Register Here](#)

(registration required)

Update on:

- the overall COVID-19 response - the latest on isolation and quarantine, epi curves and what the modelling suggests about the next wave, updates on testing and reinfection
- care in the community - therapeutics, winter planning and COVID-19 hubs, and an update on funding
- vaccination - COVID-19, flu, and MMR vaccinations
- COVID-19 pathways - updates on key changes

Presenters include:

- Dr Samantha Murton (Chair), President, Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
- Dr Marion Poore, Public Health Physician, Ministry of Health
- Dr Joe Bourne, GP, Health System Preparedness Programme Clinical Advisor
- Dr Justine Lancaster, GP, COVID-19 Care in the Community Clinical Lead
- Dr Marion Leighton, National Immunisation Programme Principal Clinical Advisor

Who should attend:

The session is targeted at primary care clinicians managing COVID-19 positive patients in the community. See your local HealthPathways site for latest guidance and local processes.

Format

Zoom webinar, presentation followed by Q&A. The webinar will be supported by local COVID-19 hub representatives and HealthPathways clinical editors who will help to answer your questions. Attendees over 1000 will be directed to a live stream on YouTube.

The session will be recorded for those unable to attend, and the recording shared on HealthPathways, and the Mobile Health website.

Education

Up to 1 CME point or certificate of attendance.

Questions? Email education@healthpathwayscommunity.org



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