

Chest X-Ray (CXR) for Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP)

Patients with suspected CAP can usually be diagnosed and managed on the basis of their clinical presentation.

POAC funds CXR in CAP **only** when it is required acutely to avoid hospital referral or to change immediate management **and** thereby avoid hospital referral. This will most commonly be when the patient is unwell and the diagnosis is uncertain, and CXR will assist in clarifying the condition requiring immediate management.

In most cases, the CXR is not needed immediately as it will not change immediate management, and it should be requested using Access to Diagnostics or by referral to the local DHB radiology department, or by use of private funding.

All DHB radiology departments offer a same-day walk in service for CXR. For the walk in requests process for each DHB see Auckland regional HealthPathways: [Plain X-ray requests](#)

Note that intravenous antibiotic therapy is NOT recommended for treatment of CAP in the community. CXR does not assist with making a decision to give IV antibiotics over oral antibiotics as this decision is based on clinical presentation.

Follow up CXR for CAP is not routinely required and any recommended follow up investigations are not POAC funded.