



# Primary Options *for* Acute Care

Phone: (09) 535 7218

Fax: (09) 535 7154

0800 TO POAC

poac@easthealth.co.nz

www.primaryoptions.co.nz

## May 2012



Welcome to the May newsletter for Primary Options..

POAC funding is available where an acute hospital attendance can be avoided and we encourage considering what POAC may be able to do to help assist managing your patients in the community. It is exciting to see the areas of POAC use broadening!

Occasionally we are asked to provide funding for particular investigations or management outside the normal scope of POAC. We may request these types of cases be discussed with one of the POAC Clinical Directors or a hospital specialist.

To undertake hospital recommended investigations or management, please ensure discussion with consultant for that speciality. Such discussions should be clearly documented in clinical notes to POAC and include the date and name of consultant.

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Due to popular demand..

We are now open at the earlier time  
of 8.30am through to 5.00pm,

Monday to Friday.

All urgent calls outside of these hours  
will be managed by Homecare Medical  
Ltd (24 hours/7 days)

### POAC CLAIMING

New referrals to POAC should be completed at the time of patient consult and submitted to POAC within 24 hours.

All claims should be submitted with full supporting clinical notes within 30 days of discharging the patient from the POAC service

Every month a reminder fax will be sent to every practice with a list of referrals which have yet to be claimed. Please ensure this list is checked and outstanding claims followed up. Claims received outside of this risk being declined for payment.

If you have claims unpaid or have any account/claim queries, please email Aimee Williams —  
aimeew@easthealth.co.nz



### NEW!!

### DVT PATHWAY

A new primary care rule has been developed and will soon come into effect.

The pathway will include a new clinical score tool and point of care d-dimer testing.

The POC tests will be distributed to all practices and training on the use of the tests and the new scoring is available.

The new pathway is available online now at [www.poac.co.nz](http://www.poac.co.nz). You can also go to the website to register your interest in a training session, or email Sarah Hyder [sarahh@easthealth.co.nz](mailto:sarahh@easthealth.co.nz)

The new pathway will also be presented at the Primary Options symposium in June. See website for more details.

### IV CEPHAZOLIN

WE ARE SEEING A LARGE NUMBER OF REFERRALS WHERE IV CEPHAZOLIN IS BEING USED FOR TREATMENT OF CONDITIONS OTHER THAN CELLULITIS (E.G PNEUMONIA).

IV CEPHAZOLIN SHOULD NOT BE USED OUTSIDE OF THE CELLULITIS GUIDELINE (AND CLAIMS RISK NON-PAYMENT) UNLESS RECOMMENDED BY AN ID OR HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN.

PLEASE REMEMBER POAC WILL COVER USE OF OTHER ANTIBIOTICS WHERE RECOMMENDED AS ABOVE.

### ECGs are funded by POAC

as part of the Acute Coronary Syndrome workup (refer Guideline and Clinical Policy). ECG for standard care diagnostics (i.e AF) are not funded by POAC.

**POAC standard fee for ECG is \$30 (incl nurse time)**

### Patient Info

It is important for us to capture full and accurate patient details, including NHI, Ethnicity and correct current phone numbers. Please help us by ensuring your referral forms include this information.

A reminder if you are not currently referring electronically, contact us today to get set up!

## CELLULITIS TREATMENT

Cellulitis treatment under the POAC guideline allows up to FOUR doses of IV Cephazolin to be given where clinically indicated and where this is clearly documented in the notes.

A FIFTH dose can be provided where necessary by contacting the POAC office for pre-approval

It is necessary for subsequent doses of SIX or more to have a discussion with an Infectious Disease specialist. Such discussions should be documented clearly in the notes along with the date and the name of the specialist.

**The Cellulitis guideline is available online at [www.poac.co.nz](http://www.poac.co.nz)**

## ACUTE vs URGENT, NON URGENT OR ROUTINE INVESTIGATIONS

POAC funds for ACUTE investigations where accessing diagnostics will assist in the decision whether to admit the patient acutely. Urgent, non-urgent and routine investigations (including 6 week follow up Chest X-rays) should be referred direct to hospital outpatient radiology or a referral made through the Access to Diagnostics service (CMDHB and ADHB only).

If uncertain, please contact the hospital radiology consultant or specialist service for advice.

## HOME IV THERAPY



If you have a patient who is requiring IV therapy but has difficulty or is unsafe to travel to a clinic for treatment, we can now arrange for a nurse to visit the patient in their own home. This service offers the assurance of the patient resting at home when they are unwell, supporting compliance as the patient doesn't have to go anywhere and providing safe care in the comfort of their home. This can be particularly helpful for new mums, elderly and those with mobility issues. There is also no wait time!

The team of nurses are fully qualified and trained in IV care and are readily available upon referral via the POAC office.

PHONE: 09 535 7215

## Taxi Vouchers?

**If you have any POAC taxi chits in the practice, please can these be removed and destroyed as these are no longer able to be used. If taxi transport is required, please contact the POAC office.**

A REMINDER THAT ACC COVER TREATMENT OF THE FOLLOWING AND THESE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO ACC, NOT POAC:

- \* Infected Insect Bites/Stings
- \* Infected Tattoos
- \* DVT Investigation post injury (ultrasounds can be arranged urgently in community, often with no surcharge to patient)



## FEMALE ABDOMINAL PAIN

Due to a potential sentinel event recently identified, it is mandatory for all women of child bearing age presenting with abdominal pain to have a pregnancy test prior to request for any abdominal/pelvic ultrasound investigation.

visit us online [www.primaryoptions.co.nz](http://www.primaryoptions.co.nz)