

# POAC CLINICAL POLICY

## Ultrasound to exclude Appendicitis

**Please Note: This is not intended as a clinical guideline for management of suspected Appendicitis in Primary Care**

### Background

Compression ultrasound has shown an extremely variable diagnostic accuracy in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis, and regularly fails to visualise the appendix. As POAC receives requests to fund ultrasound investigation for the purpose of excluding acute appendicitis, advice has been obtained from the Departments of Surgery across the metro Auckland DHBs to inform the POAC appendicitis policy below.

### POAC Policy:

POAC will **NOT** fund an ultrasound for the purpose of excluding appendicitis where the diagnostic probability of appendicitis is high. Referral to hospital is recommended.

In cases where there is right iliac fossa (RIF) pain requiring same day evaluation but not requiring immediate admission for acute pain, and the diagnostic probability of appendicitis is low, POAC will fund USS if the case has been discussed with a relevant specialist who recommends same day community ultrasound under POAC.

The name of the endorsing clinician must accompany the request to POAC

### Resources:

Acute pelvic pain young women HealthPathway

<https://aucklandregion.communityhealthpathways.org/37453.htm>