

IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING WAITEMATA DHB RADIOLOGY ACCESS

Changes have been made to the way radiology services are accessed via POAC for patients living in the Waitemata DHB area. These changes are necessary in order to meet the growing demand for services and align to available resources.

The updated Waitemata DHB referral processes are outlined below.

URGENT X-RAY

Chest X-Ray

North Shore and Waitakere hospital radiology sites have a “walk-in” service for Chest X-Rays needed acutely Monday to Friday, 0830 to 1630 hours.

Phoning ahead of the patient’s arrival is preferred and recommended to help minimise patient wait times on arrival, especially for paediatric patients.

Please use this service for all Chest X-Rays required acutely for North Shore and Waitakere domiciled patients.

Chest X-Rays are usually not needed in initial community management of Community Acquired Pneumonia. They may however be required if diagnosis is in doubt and the findings from a Chest X-Ray will alter clinical management. .

North Shore Hospital Radiology: (09) 486 8920 ext 2769

Waitakere Hospital Radiology: (09) 486 8920 ext 6720

Other X-Ray

Other acutely required X-Rays (e.g. abdominal) are also accepted for immediate imaging with a prior phone conversation with the radiology department on the above numbers.

POAC funding may be used for same day X-Ray for patients residing outside of the North Shore and Waitakere region (see map included).

Please Note: Musculoskeletal, Sinus and KUB X-Rays **are not** funded under POAC. The exception being patients referred under the St John Pathway with injuries requiring urgent X-Ray where any ACC surcharges are funded by POAC.

ULTRASOUND AND CT

Ultrasound and CT can be accessed through POAC where required same day **to avoid an acute hospital presentation.**

Standard presentations accepted for POAC funded Ultrasound and CT:

- Suspected Deep Vein Thrombosis (refer pathway)
- Renal Colic (refer pathway)

All other urgent Ultrasound or CT investigations will require referral to Waitemata DHB radiology. POAC no longer accepts referral for Pelvic Ultrasounds.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact relevant person as below.

Clinical Queries:

Radiology GP Liaison

Phone: (021) 682 994

Email: kate.aitken@waitematadhb.govt.nz.

Alternatively phone Liaison Radiologist/Registrar (021) 683 541

POAC Queries:

Deanna Williams, POAC Service Manager

Phone: 021 665 521

Email: deannaw@easthealth.co.nz

