

GP News

August 2022

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Update for COVID – 19 Early Antiviral Treatment

As of Monday the 25th of July, the Eastern Health COVID Early Treatment Clinic will only be accepting referrals for patients who are priority 1 or 2 as per the Victorian Department of Health’s prioritisation classification which be found at;

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/covid-19-medications-for-at-risk-people-who-do-not-require-oxygen> (access document “COVID-19 medications for at risk people who do not require oxygen)

Department of Health prescribing guides are available to assist GPs in prescribing COVID-19 antiviral treatment in the community and can be found at;

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/vaccines-and-medications-in-patients-with-covid-19>

The Alfred pharmacy also have a dedicated helpline to assist GPs with advice on COVID-19 antiviral prescribing which is available 7 days a week between 8am to 5pm. They can be contacted on 03 8290 3801.

eReferrals - Maternity

Maternity referrals at Eastern Health have also now transitioned to eReferrals. All referrals are required to be completed via eReferrals (HealthLink Smartforms) for practices with conformant software (Best Practice, Genie, Medical Director and MedTech Evolution). Where referrers do not have conformant software (eg- Zmed and Helix), referrals can be made via the HealthLink Portal. Please email maternity.bookings@easternhealth.org.au if there are any queries regarding maternity referrals.

Eastern Health Movement Disorders Program (Located at Wantirna Health)

The Eastern Health Movement Disorders Program (MDP) is “back on deck”. We would like to remind you how our service can help your clients.

MDP offers a **multi-disciplinary strategy training program** for clients with a confirmed diagnosis of Parkinson’s or a Parkinson related condition (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Cortico Basal Degeneration or Multiple System Atrophy). The program is short term (generally 6-8 weeks). To be accepted by the program, clients must have goals that can be assisted via strategy training and the cognitive capacity to benefit from the program. Clients also have to be able to attend the Wantirna Health site. To be eligible for MDP, clients need to reside within Eastern Health catchment.

In addition to the strategy training program, MDP also offers a **neurology clinic** (run by Dr Will Lee, a specialist in Parkinson’s Disease) for patients requiring medical management of their Parkinson’s / related disorder (where there is already a diagnosis in place), or for client’s where a second opinion on medical management is being sought. Information on our program, and how to make a referral can be found at: <https://www.easternhealth.org.au/services/item/377-movement-disorders-program>

If you think you have an appropriate patient for the program, please fax your referral to our ACCESS and Intake unit Fax #9881 1102.

**Please note if you are seeking a diagnosis, eReferrals (no fax, email or post referrals are accepted) need to be directed to the neurology department at Box Hill Hospital

Closure of Eastern Health COVID-19 testing clinics

Since March 2020, our staff have provided over 150,000 COVID-19 tests at our Box Hill and Healesville sites and pop up clinics.

With the nature of COVID-19 in the community continuing to evolve, our wonderful team are now shifting to providing care in other parts of our health service.

The last day of testing was on the 30th June.

GP Respiratory Clinics in our local area provide testing and assessment for people with cold and flu (including COVID) symptoms – see www.emphn.org.au/gprcs to find a clinic near you.

Eastern Health COVID Wards

Victoria is currently registering recording numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations. In response, Eastern Health has recently commissioned another COVID ward at Maroondah Hospital.

All three of Eastern Health’s acute campuses now have dedicated COVID-wards and are classified as Tier 1 sites under the Victorian Health Service Winter Response.

Renewed Referrals

When submitting renewed referrals to health services via HealthLink SmartForms, it is not required to select a relevant condition from the **Reason for referral** drop down box, where applicable. This is because the patient has been reviewed by the specialist and at most, their condition may no longer fit one of the referral criteria. Instead **Other** can be selected for ongoing review of care.

The three (3) main selections to clearly identify a renewed referral is by selecting:

1. **Renew expired referral** as the 'Referral Continuation'.
2. A 'Referral Period' – i.e. **12 months**, **3 months**, or **Indefinite**.
3. **Other** as the 'Reason for referral'.

Referral Continuation*	<input type="radio"/> New <input type="radio"/> Amended referral/update previously sent referral <input checked="" type="radio"/> Renew expired referral <input type="radio"/> Team Care Arrangement
Referral Period*	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">12 months ▾</div> <input checked="" type="radio"/> 12 months No <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 months No <input type="radio"/> Indefinite
Interpreter Required*	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Special Needs / Reasonable Adjustments for Disability*	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does the patient have a carer / support person?*	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Is the patient appropriately equipped and enabled for Telehealth (video) consultation?*	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<p>I acknowledge that the patient has consented to the referral and to their personal and health information being shared between the referring clinician, the nominated GP, the health service staff and other health service providers as required to facilitate their treatment or care.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Consent*	
<p>HealthPathways Melbourne</p> <p>Before sending your referral, please ensure you meet the referral criteria for Neurology and attach any relevant investigations. Access HealthPathways Melbourne for referral guidelines.</p>	
Urgency*	Routine: Greater than 30 days ▾
Referral Purpose*	Please select ▾
Reason for referral*	Other ▾

New Acting GP Liaison Officer

Thong Le has recently commenced as our Acting GP Liaison Officer. He was a resident at Eastern Health and returned to Eastern Health late last year to work with the COVID Positive Pathways team. He received his fellowship from the RACGP in 2020 and has been practicing in Fitzroy North as a GP. He is also a teaching associate at Monash University and the Eastern Health Clinical School.

Thong hopes to bring his interests in education and advocacy to his new role as Acting GP Liaison Officer. He looks forward to working together with Eastern Health's outstanding community of GPs. Thong will be available Mondays and Fridays to answer GP enquiries.

Quick access guide to information - as our Call Centre is experiencing a high demand at present here are some alternative ways to access information

Pathology results

Eastern Health Pathology results can be electronically downloaded to your computer. To apply, register online with Healthlink on <https://register.healthlink.net/ServiceApplicationForm/>, then fax your details, including your HealthLink EDI address to 9895 4602 (Attention: Anoja).

Medical Imaging

Eastern Health's images and reports are available via the Eastern Health website or: <https://imaging.easternhealth.org.au>. Sign up by registering online. You will require a **Username** and **Password** to be able to access your patient images and completed reports. **Contact Lauren Moutafis 0455 080 206 or pacsadmin@easternhealth.org.au for assistance or further information**

Medical records

For Release of Information (ROI), email roi@easternhealth.org.au. You can also fax requests to 03 9871 3357 or call 03 9871 3655

For further information please contact:

Dr Thong Le

Eastern Health Acting GP Liaison

Ph: 0403 914 357

Email: gpliaison@easternhealth.org.au