

# REFERRAL GUIDELINES

## Infectious Disease Clinic

**Head of Clinic: Peter Kelly**

**Referrals:** Referral addressed to named head of unit is preferred.

E-referral using the GP Referral Template located within the Mastercare Referralnet system is preferred.

For faxed referrals: **FAX 9788 1879.**

### Clinic overview:

The infectious Disease Outpatients Clinic sees patients with :  
General infectious diseases, hospital acquired infections, orthopaedic infections, travel-related infectious, viral hepatitis, HIV

- **Should COVID-19 be suspected, please refer to the PH Information for General Practitioners webpage for up to date information including: COVID-19 updates ,Post Covid -19 Recovery and Rehabilitation Clinic ,Community Health :post Covid-19 Recovery Program**
- **For urgent triage cases it is best to contact the Infectious Disease Registrar via the switchboard 9784 7777 and the case can be discussed with the on-call ID consultant**

### Specific Referral Information Required:

Please note, referral cannot be processed if minimum information is missing

- Referral addressed to named practitioner:
- Referring practitioner name, provider number and signature.
- Date of referral
- Referral must indicate the period for which the referral is valid
- Patient's name, address, date of birth, Medicare number and phone number.
- Clinical details and reason for referral
- Relevant medical history
- Medications
- Allergies
- Results of all recent and relevant investigation e.g Pathology or Imaging as below

### **IMPORTANT:**

The following referral information is mandatory:

#### **Referral:**

- Date of referral
- Speciality
- Referring practitioner name
- Provider Number
- Referrer's signature

#### **Patient Demographic:**

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Postal address
- Contact numbers
- Medicare Number
- Interpreter Required

#### **Clinical:**

- Reason for referral
- Duration of symptoms
- Management to date
- Past medical history
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- Diagnostics as per referral guidelines

#### **Preferred:**

- Addressed to named practitioner
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- Email address

**HEAD OF UNIT**  
**Majoree Sehu**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
**Gary Braun**

#### **ENQUIRIES**

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Reviewed: May 2023

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### Categories for Appointment :

	Clinical Description	Timeframe
<b>Emergency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute jaundice /cholangitis/suspected pancreas cancer</li> <li>If meningococcal infection is suspected (eg fever, petechial rash) administer Ceftriaxone IM (if no allergy)</li> <li>If bacterial meningitis suspected</li> <li>Tuberculosis - If signs of bacterial or viral infection</li> <li>Severe cellulitis or necrotising skin and soft tissue infections (temperature &gt;38°C or less than 36°C, rigors, heart rate &gt;90bpm, other systemic features).</li> <li>Acutely unwell patient with new HIV diagnosis – call Infectious Diseases Registrar via switch 9784 7777 for urgent assessment</li> <li>Lower RTI- Features of sepsis / hypoxaemia</li> <li>Acute Diarrhoea If intravenous rehydration is required or suspected sepsis.</li> <li>Patients with complications of acute diarrhoea e.g. dehydration and hypotension.</li> <li>If signs of clinical instability refer immediately to the Emergency Department.</li> <li>Fever/pyrexia If rigors</li> </ul>	<b>Immediately via Emergency Department</b>

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<b>Category 1 Urgent</b>	Active untreated infection or recently commenced treatment requiring urgent review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly diagnosed HIV infection</li> <li>Imaging suggestions cavitation or other changes suggestive of active Tuberculosis, Mycobacterium ulcerans</li> </ul>	<b>14 - 28 days</b>
<b>Category 2 Routine</b>	All other cases related to an infectious disease	<b>28-56 days</b>

### Additional Clinical Information for Specific Conditions:

#### General Infectious diseases:

#### Skin and soft tissue infections:

##### Clinical History:

- History of travel, animal, occupational contacts
- Seek history of medication and bites
- Vaccination history
- History of any antimicrobial hypersensitivities and intolerances
- History of any prior post-operative infections
- History of previous infections with Staphylococcus aureus and/or other Multi[1]resistant microorganisms

##### Investigations:

- Swab of purulent discharge
- FBE □U&Es
- Relevant microbiology results (swabs, tissue, aspirates)

#### Fever/pyrexia of unknown origin

##### Clinical History:

- Medical history
- History of travel, animal contacts and recent sexual contacts
- Seek history of medication and bites

##### Investigations:

- FBE, LFTs, U+E, Cr, Blood cultures
- If vesicular rash, swab for herpes virus PCR
- Syphilis Serology as appropriate

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### **Diarrhoea**

#### Clinical History:

- Recent diet history
- Travel history

#### Investigations:

- Faeces for M&C ,Faeces for ova, cysts and parasites ,Cryptosporidium stain Faecal fats
- Thyroid function.

### **Jaundice**

#### Clinical History:

- History of travel and vaccinations
- right upper quadrant pain
- medications/toxin/drug exposures
- exposure to viral Hepatitis
- Gallstone pain medications
- Treatment history

#### Investigations:

- LFTs, liver related autoantibodies , Fe studies ,Cu studies , FBE, Haemolytic screen
- Serology for Hep BsAg, Hep A IgM, IgG, Hep C antibody , EBV , CMV
- Upper GIT USS, Consider CT pancreas protocol for pancreatic lesion

### **Tuberculosis & Microbacterial Infections e.g. Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis ,Bairnsdale Ulcer, Mycobacterium Avium Complex ,Leprosy**

#### Clinical history :

- Travel history (especially in high risk ce areas)and past exposure
- Information regarding immunosuppression, including future planned therapy, which may cause immunosuppression.

#### Investigations :

- FBE, LFTs, U+E, Cr , Blood cultures
- Swab of purulent discharge ,Serology as appropriate presentation
- Consider any TB contacts, sputum for AFB, M & C
- Relevant microbiology results (Quantiferon (iGRAS) or Mantoux test)

### **Fever and a rash**

#### Clinical History:

- History of travel, animal contacts and recent sexual contacts
- Seek history of medication and bites, Vaccination history

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### Investigations:

- FBE, LFTs □ Blood cultures , U+E, Cr
- If vesicular rash, swab for herpes virus PCR □ Syphilis serology , Serology as appropriate to risks above
- Swab of purulent discharge

### Hospital acquired infections /Diabetic foot infection

#### Clinical History:

- Severe cellulitis or necrotising skin and soft tissue infections
- History of any prior post-operative infections
- History of any antimicrobial hypersensitivities and intolerances
- History of previous infections with Staphylococcus aureus and/or other Multi[1]resistant microorganisms

#### Investigations:

- Relevant microbiology results (swabs, tissue, aspirates)
- FBE □ CRP, ESR □ U&Es □ LFT

### Travel Related Infection

#### Clinical History:

- History of travel, animal contacts
- Seek history of medication and bites
- Vaccination history

#### Investigations:

- Blood cultures (typhoid), FBE, LFTs, U+E, Cr , Serology: Dengue, Hepatitis A
- Thick and thin film and ICT for malaria , CXR , Urine M&C , Faeces M&C

### Hepatitis

#### Clinical History:

- Symptomatic illness, Treatment history , History of travel, right upper quadrant pain
- medications/toxin/drug exposures, exposure to viral Hepatitis

#### Investigations:

- LFTs □ FBE, Haemolytic screen □ Serology for HepBsAg, HepA IgM, HepA IgG, Hep C antibody, liver biopsy result if performed ,
- HIV Antibody test result □ Upper GIT Ultrasound Scan, Ultrasound and fibroscan for hepatitis (if available)

### HIV

#### Clinical History:

- Establish HIV-Reason for referral e.g. complications/subspecialty clinic
- History of AIDs-defining illness

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- Treatment history including Antiretroviral therapy
- Current medication list, CD4 cell count and HIV viral load

#### Investigations:

- Symptomatic illness i.e. constitutional symptoms or organ specific symptoms
- Copy of HIV antibody test result and Western blot
- If available: CD4 count, FBE, U&Es, LFTs, Viral load, Hepatitis screen.
- HIV genotype ○ HLA B57 ,Sexually transmitted infection testing

#### **Sexually transmitted infection**

##### Clinical History:

- STI history

##### Investigations:

- M,C & S swab of discharge ,Serology of syphilis, HIV , Urine for Chlamydia, gonococcal PCR

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Referred by doctor

Any infectious disease requiring review: General infectious diseases, hospital acquired infections, orthopaedic infections, travel-related infectious, HIV, viral hepatitis

#### **Clinic Information:**

- General Infectious Disease Clinic
- Weekly ID clinic – Wednesday 1300 – 1700
- Outpatients Department-Integrated Health Centre-Hastings Road, Frankston
- Phone: 9784 2600 Fax:9788 1879
- Electronic referrals preferred

#### **Exclusions:**

- Paediatric patients
- Sexual health issues (eg: HPV infection)
- BCG vaccination

#### **Alternative referral options:**

- Monash Medical Centre Infectious Diseases Unit
- Viral hepatitis – gastroenterology outpatients or private clinic
- Private specialists

Urgent cases please page Infectious Disease registrar via Switchboard 9784 7777