

February 2018

Shared Maternity Care Program - LATEST NEWS

❖ Fetal Diagnostic Service –Launch February 8th 2018

From Dr Jolyon Ford, Clinical Director of Women's Health

I am pleased to say that we are launching a Fetal Diagnostic Service from the 8th of February. This will be a weekly ultrasound session run on Thursdays.

The service allows women on the Peninsula to be seen locally for ultrasound opinions, diagnostic imaging and invasive fetal testing by amniocentesis and Chorionic Villous Sampling where required. The local service will reduce waiting times, take pressure off busy tertiary centres and reduce travel for the women of the Peninsula.

Referrals

GP Referrals must be made on the attached referral form and ALL the relevant information must be included with the referral. Incomplete paperwork will delay the appointment in this time-critical setting. There is a number to call on the form if you have any queries about referrals.

All referrals are to be faxed (see number on the form) and will be triaged by the Fetal Diagnostic Service Coordinator (currently Della Attwood). Women will be contacted with an appointment. Women will have an urgent antenatal clinic appointment made at Peninsula Health to provide additional counselling before their ultrasound.

See attached referral form and hospital clinical practice guideline.

Indications

These include suspected genetic or physical anomalies, significant placental issues (vasa praevia/possible accreta), maternal infections such as CMV and severe growth restriction. Please call if you are unsure if the procedure is indicated.

Women who are suitable for invasive testing will be offered either CVS (from 10 weeks) or Amniocentesis (from 15 weeks) and detailed consent and patient information forms have been developed.



Counselling

Women should be offered the option of genetic counselling where appropriate. This will be provided by Monash Genetics Services and referrals can be made following the link below.
<http://www.monashhealth.org/page/Genetics>

Follow Up

As in any tertiary ultrasound service, the reported ultrasound and any results from invasive testing must be accompanied by appropriate counselling and follow up. Follow up will be made in the Peninsula Health antenatal clinic for internal and GP referrals.

❖ Expression of Interest from GPs

Are you or would you be interested in providing medical terminations of pregnancy in the community with more support from Women's Health Services?

I would like to put out an expression of interest for any GPs interested in providing medical TOP services in the context of a pathway that integrates primary care with hospital support. I am interested in providing support for any GPs who wish to be involved in providing medical termination services.

Peninsula Health has been given funds to develop a number of community based sexual health services. We feel this should build on the services already provided by our nurse led women's health clinics (currently in Frankston, Rosebud and Hastings) and those provided in primary care.

As you may know the launch of MS 2 Step a couple of years ago has dramatically improved the success and acceptability of medical TOPs and is licensed for women under 9 weeks gestation. MS 2 Step requires a licensing process for prescribers which includes uploading your medical qualifications, a brief on-line education program and an agreement to follow the PBS prescribing regulations. Practitioners will then become a registered prescriber. Pharmacies are also required to follow a similar process. <https://www.ms2step.com.au/>

Any GPs who would like more information please contact me via e-mail at jford@phcn.vic.gov.au



❖ Developing Ambulatory Care Services for Women in Peninsula Health

Peninsula Health has some funding from the Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund (under the auspices of the Better Care Victoria Board) to develop and set up two new ambulatory gynaecology procedure services for women with abnormal bleeding as well as those having miscarriages. The clinics will probably start late in the first half of 2018 and we think they will be a great service allowing women to have the option of minimally invasive procedures under local anaesthetic without the need for general anaesthetic.

More details including patient information, referral processes and starting dates of new clinics will follow.

❖ 2018 Education

The next education forums dates for this year are will be held on Wednesday May 2nd, Wednesday 29th August and Wednesday October 31st at 18:45.

Topics to be confirmed.

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