

# Desktop Dispatch

GPHLO Information for Busy Practitioners

## Emergency Department Referral Tips



- **Staffing:**
  - a) An Emergency Consultant or SMO is rostered from 0700 – 2300 every day; 2 Registrars are in the ED overnight every night and an SMO is on call overnight.
  - b) All patients seen by junior doctors are discussed with an SMO as a minimum and more often than not seen by them as well. Junior medical staff don NOT see, assess, treat, or discharge without the input of the SMO/Consultant during “regular” hours (0700-2300), or without the input of the overnight Registrar.
- **Telephone Contact:** An SMO can be contacted on **4303 8120** 24 hours per day and requests for telephone advice are encouraged. Telephone notification of referred patients is also encouraged.
- **Referral Information:**
  - a) Ensure that you have archived medication that is no longer current. This is a source of significant confusion and time delay especially for patients with complex medical problems. An ED-based pharmacist reviews patient medication during business hours (0800-1700 Mon-Fri).
  - b) Indicate on the referral if you have discussed the patient with a private specialist before referral.
  - c) If you are referring the patient with a view to admission, please discuss them with the receiving ED Consultant on **4303 8120** so there is no confusion about your expected disposition of the patient.
- It is easier to advise patients that they are being referred for assessment rather than being too prescriptive about what will happen to them e.g. patient may not require hospital admission but may be better managed through the CHIP system in their own home. This is true even if you think the patient will have an operation (eg Appendicectomy).

- If you have already discussed the case with an inpatient doctor who has accepted the care of the patient, please record this on the ED referral letter or discuss with the receiving ED consultant on **4303 8120**
- Emergency department fax – **4303 8199**. Discharge letters are often faxed to the patient's nominated GP if early follow-up is requested.
- **Staff:** Director of Emergency Medicine – Dr Greg Treston

Consultants: Dr Michaela Marginean  
Dr Sandra Rattenbury  
Dr Bob Butler  
Dr Khalid Yousif  
Dr Scott Boyes

Emergency Physician SMOs: Dr Chris Barnes  
Dr Naldo Keil  
Dr Kevin Power  
Dr Jeff White  
Dr Paul Davies  
Dr Christian Blank  
Dr Barrie Lennon

Dr Treston is happy to be contacted via the hospital switchboard on **4150 2222** to discuss any specific concerns you may have.

Emergency Department teaching is scheduled for 7:00-7:30am each day (Mon-Fri), and 2:00-3:30pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and interested community practitioners are welcome to attend. Please co-ordinate this through the ED Secretary (Sue Hutchins) on **4150 2220**.

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**GPHLO**  
**Edition 3 06/10**

**Do you have an idea, a problem or a solution?**  
**Please contact me on 41510814 or [tryan@gplinks.org.au](mailto:tryan@gplinks.org.au)**

**\*(Previous editions of Desktop Dispatch are available on the GP Links website under the Publications tab)**