

Monash Children's Hospital

Referral Guidelines

PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

EXCLUSIONS

Services not offered by Monash Children's Hospital

Patients over 18 years of age: [Click here](#) for Monash Health Infectious Diseases guidelines

CONDITIONS

SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

[Bloodborne viruses](#)
[Fever / Pyrexia of unknown origin](#)
[Fever and rash](#)
[Fever in immunocompromised](#)
[Post travel](#)

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

[Post splenectomy](#)
[Pre exposure prophylaxis](#)
[Pre travel](#)

NON-SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

[Diarrhoea](#)
[Genital discharge](#)
[Jaundice](#)
[Meningitis](#)
[Respiratory infection – lower](#)
[Respiratory infection – upper](#)
[Skin and soft tissue infections](#)
[Tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections](#)

PRIORITY

All referrals received are triaged by **Monash Children's Hospital clinicians** to determine **urgency of referral**.

EMERGENCY

For emergency cases please do any of the following:

- send the patient to the Emergency department OR
- Contact the on call registrar OR
- Phone 000 to arrange immediate transfer to ED

URGENT

The patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly with significant consequences for health and quality of life if not managed promptly.

ROUTINE

The patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if the specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month

Head of unit:
Dr Jeremy Carr

Program Director:
Prof Nick Freezer

Last updated:
14/12/2020

Monash Children's Hospital Referral Guidelines PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

REFERRAL

How to refer to
Monash Children's
Hospital

Find up-to-date information about how to send a referral to Monash Health [on the eReferrals page on our website.](#)

CONTACT US

Medical practitioners

To discuss complex & urgent referrals
contact: On-call [registrar or consultant] via
<insert contact details>

General enquiries

Phone: 8572 3004

Head of unit:
Dr Jeremy Carr

Program Director:
Prof Nick Freezer

Last updated:
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SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

BLOODBORNE VIRUSES

WHEN TO REFER?

Presentation

- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis B
- HIV and AIDS

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Faeces for M&C
- Faeces for ova, cysts and parasites

Management Options for GP

- Encourage parents ensure child remains hydrated

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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GENITAL DISCHARGE

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial GP Work Up

- STI history

Investigations

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

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS (cont'd)

FEVER AND RASH

Initial GP Work Up

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

Investigations

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

Management Options for GP

- Consider meningococcal infection

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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FEVER IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

Initial GP Work Up

- Medical history

Investigations

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

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS (cont'd)

POST TRAVEL

Initial GP Work Up

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

Investigations

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

Management Options for GP

- Consider meningococcal infection



WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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NON-SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

DIARRHOEA

WHEN TO REFER?

Presentation

- Acute diarrhoea
- Chronic diarrhoea – refer to [Gastroenterology](#)

Initial GP Work Up

- Symptomatic illness
- Treatment history

Investigations

- LFTs, liver biopsy result if performed
- HIV Antibody test result and Western blot

Management Options for GP

- Information for Hepatitis B can be found [here](#)
- Consider referral to [Gastroenterology](#) for Hepatitis

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

- Newly diagnosed patients
- If acutely unwell, phone Infectious Diseases registrar on XXXX

Routine

Refer on confirmation of diagnosis

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FEVER / PYREXIA OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial GP Work Up

- Travel and animal contact history

Investigations

- FBE
- LFTs
- CRP Urine for MSU Blood cultures
- CXR

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

If rigors present

Urgent

Patients with XXXX

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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NON-SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS (cont'd)

JAUNDICE

Initial GP Work Up

History of:

- Travel
- Gallstone pain medications
- Exposure to hepatitis

Investigations

- Upper GIT USS
- LFTs
- FBE, Haemolytic screen
- Serology for Hep BsAg, Hep A IgM, IgG, Hep C antibody

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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MENINGITIS

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Insert relevant information

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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NON-SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS (cont'd)

RESPIRATORY INFECTION – LOWER

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Sputum for M& C CXR
- Legionella and pneumococcal
- Urinary antigens
- Consider any TB contacts, sputum for AFB, M & C
- Serology Legionella, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

If rigors, breathless on room air or oxygen desaturation

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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RESPIRATORY INFECTION – UPPER

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Throat swab for PCR for respiratory viruses
- Nasopharyngeal aspirate PCR
- Serology for EBV, influenza, pertussis

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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NON-SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS (cont'd)

SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Swab of purulent discharge
- FBE
- U&Es
- LFTs
- PCR for *M. ulcerans* if suspicious

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS

WHEN TO REFER?

Presentation

- Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis
- Bairnsdale Ulcer
- Mycobacterium Avian Complex
- Leprosy

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Insert relevant information

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

POST SPLENECTOMY

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial GP Work Up

- Reason for splenectomy
- Reason for hyposplenism e.g. extensive spleen damage, splenic hypoembolisation
- Date of splenectomy
- Vaccination history
- Prophylactic history
- History of sepsis/thrombosis
- Referral if travel advice given

Investigations

- FBE and film required
- Howell – Jolly bodies
- IgM memory B cell

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

If signs of bacterial infection refer immediately to the Emergency Department. Phone Infectious Diseases registrar on **XXXX**

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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PRE EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial GP Work Up

- Insert relevant information

Investigations

- Insert relevant information

Management Options for GP

- Insert relevant information

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE (cont'd)

PRE TRAVEL

Initial GP Work Up

- Clinical history
- Record of previous vaccinations
- Medications
- Travel plans

Investigations

- Insert relevant information

Management Options for GP

- Consider www.smartraveller.gov.au for travel advice

WHEN TO REFER?

Emergency

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Urgent

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

Routine

Insert relevant information or delete text box if not appropriate

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