Secure Messaging

Monash Health’s Medical Transcription Services have collaborated with other local hospital networks to improve the way we send outpatient letters to general practitioners via Argus secure messaging. It provides a streamlined and secure option for you to receive Monash Health letters directly into your practice management software rather than relying on the mailing and faxing processes we currently use.

It is a fast and free service that reduces paper handling and associated administrative costs. There are many other benefits. To find out how you can start receiving your correspondence through Argus secure messaging, or for more information, see the flyer attached.

General practitioner satisfaction

Discharge summary survey

At Monash Health, we work hard to continually improve our communication with you. We recognise that discharge summaries are an important form of communication and crucial to the continued care of our patients.

We seek your feedback and suggestions about Monash Health discharge summaries. This online survey takes less than three minutes to complete. We greatly appreciate your feedback and assistance in helping us improve. Please click here to complete the survey.

Monash Health Medical Oncology Unit

Development of a rapid cancer diagnosis clinic

Monash Health’s Medical Oncology Unit has commenced the development of a rapid cancer diagnosis clinic to support patients and GPs. The purpose of the clinic will be to provide GPs with a point of contact regarding patients with a suspected cancer to assist in their rapid triage, investigation, diagnosis and on-referral.

This clinic will offer a simple pathway for referral of patients with a suspected malignancy, peace of mind for GPs, and alleviate the anxiety of patients who may otherwise have to wait with uncertainty until they have the opportunity to be triaged and be seen by an oncologist or surgeon.

The clinic is expected to open in late 2017 or early 2018. Details for referrers will be publicised though this newsletter and through the Eastern and South Eastern Primary Health Networks. Director of Medical Oncology Monash Health and Monash University, Professor Eva Segelov, is leading the development of this clinic.
Mental Health

Agile clinics

The Mental Health Program has established a number of specialist consulting clinics to improve access to psychological services.

Clinicians work in collaboration with consumers and referrers to focus on immediate psychological care.

The following Agile Clinics provide services tailored to individual needs:

- **Agile Psychological Medicine (APM) clinic** – rapid assessment and brief psychological and medical treatment for those in distress or experiencing situational crisis.
- **Agile Complex Mood program** – medium-term psychological treatment for people with diagnosed mood disorders experiencing an acute episode.
- **Agile Recovery from Trauma** – cognitive processing therapy for people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- **Agile Comprehensive Care Initiative** – treatment for complex mental health consumers who require a comprehensive response.

Mental Health GP/patient transition coordinators

The Mental Health Program has two GP/patient transition coordinators who are supporting streamlining and integration of care for mental health consumers. They have well established links with many GP and other community services.

**Current focus areas are:**

1. Improving access to services
   1.1. assisting consumers to access a full range of services
   1.2. collaborating with GPs and case managers
   1.3. streamlining treatment pathways
   1.4. assisting with discharge planning.

2. Improving physical health outcomes
   2.1. promoting healthy lifestyles
   2.2. early identification and prevention of physical illness.

**Contact the GP/patient transition coordinators:**

Agata Benet (Clayton Clinic) M: 0408 594 240
Joel Hanafin (Southern Clinic) M: 0410 422 694

Overdose prevention and harm reduction

Monash Health's Drug and Alcohol Service operates a Primary Health Clinic and needle and syringe program. The clinic provides education for consumers, carers and healthcare service providers on overdose prevention.

Training includes recognising, responding to, and reversing opioid overdose using Naloxone, a lifesaving medication that reverses the effects of opioid administration. The clinic also provides clean needles and syringes to reduce infection risks for consumers. This service is located at:

**84 Foster Street, Dandenong**

**T: 9792 7630**

Primary Health Clinic partners with Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network to provide GP training in assessment and management of consumers with opioid dependence.

For information on the ‘Medication assisted treatment of opioid dependence’ online module contact [RACGP Education](mailto:RACGP_Education) or [jacqueline.apostolopoulos@semphn.org.au](mailto:jacqueline.apostolopoulos@semphn.org.au)
Pregnancy Care referrals

Please be reminded that all maternity referrals for Monash Health hospital sites (Casey, Dandenong and Clayton) need to be faxed to our central booking service. Referrals should include the recently revised maternity booking referral form, which can be found on the Maternity GP Liaison webpage.

The referral form includes a list of recommended investigations. Please remember to give women a copy of all relevant results to bring to their appointments.

At Monash Women’s, we aim for all women to have their first pregnancy visit between 10 and 12 weeks gestation, so it is important to refer women when you see them for their first pregnancy visit. Prompt referrals allow women to book into their preferred hospital and have the full choice of pregnancy care options available to them.

Protocol for haemoglobinopathy carrier screening in Victoria

All couples planning a pregnancy or women who are currently pregnant and the father should be offered a thalassaemia screening if one has not previously been performed. Click here to read more.

Day Procedure Centre

Helping patients prepare for admission to hospital

We recognise the important and trusted position that GPs have in their patients’ lives, and we rely on GPs as an important part in their preparation for day surgery. To optimise our patients’ experience we ask that all patients arrive with a completed discharge plan for post-operative care. Key parts of the plan include:

- a responsible adult to be contactable by phone and available at a requested time to transport the patient home after they have been discharged, and
- a responsible adult available to be present for 24 hours post-anaesthetic.

Pre-operative information is available for patients. This can be obtained by contacting the Surgical Liaison Nurse for the relevant medical unit. Patients are discharged with the relevant post-operative information.

An important step in the process of referring patients for elective surgery is notifying Monash Health if an illness occurs whilst awaiting elective surgery. Details of how to make contact can be obtained from the Surgical Liaison Nurse for the relevant medical unit. Please ensure that the discharge plan is prepared at the time of referral and confirmed at any subsequent appointments prior to the surgery.

Monash Lung and Sleep

Lung cancer clinic

The Monash Lung and Sleep Department is excited to announce the updated Lung Cancer Clinic process, which can be found on Monash Health’s Lung Cancer Clinic web page. The team have been working hard to streamline all lung cancer and mesothelioma referrals to the department, ensuring urgent referrals are triaged and seen as a matter of priority.

The web page includes information on the services available, contact details, GP and patient information/educational resources and our NEW fillable referral form. Click here to visit the web page.
Day Allergy Unit
Jack Jumper Ant, honey bee and wasp venom immunotherapy

Jack jumper ants are insects unique to Australia. Along with bees and wasps these ants can cause allergic reactions in people. Severe anaphylactic reactions are distressing and potentially life-threatening.

Immunotherapy or desensitisation treatment is available at Monash Health to help patients reduce the chance of an allergic reaction. Click here to read more about Venom Immunotherapy.

Finding curable hypertension

You are invited to participate in a project to evaluate the prevalence of a common cause of hypertension, primary aldosteronism (PA).

PA causes more severe cardiovascular outcomes (atrial fibrillation, heart attacks and strokes) than essential hypertension, but is easily treatable with spironolactone, and in some cases it can be cured with surgery.

International literature reveals that PA accounts for five to ten percent of hypertension, yet is diagnosed in less than one percent of hypertensive patients in Australia.

Our project will help GPs identify curable cases of hypertension, and make timely diagnoses for many patients. Furthermore, we have established a new endocrine hypertension clinic at Monash Health to help evaluate and manage patients with PA.

Please contact Monash Health endocrinologist Dr Jun Yang via jun.yang@hudson.org.au to receive further information about this study. Referrals to the new clinic can be emailed to Dr Yang or faxed to (03) 9594-3558.

Education Events

Sleep medicine state of the art

Monash Lung and Sleep Institute is proud to present the third state of the art seminar. This seminar will focus on sleep medicine by world renowned international guest speaker Dr Atul Malhotra.

Topics include:
- Sleepiness and safety
- Personalised medicine for obstructive sleep apnea and cardiovascular health
- Insomnia and circadian disorders
- Panel Discussion – Q&A

State-wide paediatric health pathways forum

The Victorian Primary Health Network Alliance and The Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network are working together to develop state-wide paediatric pathways for primary care. Click here to read more about the upcoming paediatric health pathways forum.

Date:
Friday 28 July

Time:
8:30am-5pm

Location:
RACV Club,
501 Bourke Str, Melbourne

Event flyer and registration

Date:
Friday 30 June 2017

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.
Any questions, email Charlotte Buckley

You are receiving the official Monash Health GP Liaison e-newsletter as you are listed on the National Health Services Directory. Click unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.