

## COVID-19

### SCHHS Information for GPs

Dear GP colleagues, please find below update re COVID-19 response. We appreciate your support.

#### Fever Clinics and COVID-19 testing

Please inform patients referred to the virtual or physical Fever Clinics that COVID-19 testing will only be done if testing criteria are met. Some patients are expecting a test and are disappointed if they do not meet criteria and testing will not be performed.

#### Imaging requests for suspected COVID-19

Currently imaging does not have a role in management of COVID-19 in the community and the SCHHS is unable to accept GP referrals for imaging people with suspected COVID-19.

If a patient in the community has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and is asymptomatic or mildly unwell, they should be isolated and not be having any imaging for COVID 19 in the community.

If a patient is or becomes unwell enough to need imaging specifically for COVID 19 they should present to SCUH DEM.

#### Patients with possible cardiac pain

Patients presenting to the emergency departments with possible cardiac pain will be discharged from ED following two negative High Sensitive Troponin Assay tests (HsTnI) and ECGs.

Please note that inpatient exercise stress testing will not be performed at this stage. We recommend and appreciate a GP review to discuss further testing at GP discretion. The discharge advice for the patient is to follow up with their GP for risk modification.

High risk patients will have early Cardiology input and appropriate disposition depending on each clinical situation.

#### Changes to Outpatient Department and Elective surgery

The HHS response to COVID-19 may impact the waiting times of non-urgent outpatient appointments and elective surgery.

A process will be in place to ensure these patients remain safely in our system. Your help in supporting your patients to access alternate care over the coming months is appreciated.

We will also be offering phone and telehealth consultations for some patients. The Antenatal Clinic may advise patients to see their regular GP for physical assessment between phone consults.

Thanks for your consideration and support.

**Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

