

### Excluded procedures ACT Public Hospital

There are some surgical procedures that are not performed at Canberra Hospital and others that are only performed in exceptional circumstances.

The following is a list of excluded procedures which are not routinely performed in ACT public Hospitals.

Excluded Procedures	Exception
Reduction mammoplasty	Gross breast asymmetry in patients under 21
Breast augmentation	Nil
Replacement breast prosthesis	Replacement for post cancer patients only
Hair transplant	Nil
Blepharoplasty	Vision obscured as evidenced by upper eyelid skin resting on lashes on straight ahead gaze Herniation of orbital fat in exophthalmos Facial nerve palsy or post traumatic scarring Restoration of symmetry of contralateral eyelid in respect of one of the above conditions
Total rhinoplasty – Cosmetic only	Functional / traumatic / congenital
Liposuction (cosmetic only)	Nil
Abdominal lipectomy (Abdominoplasty)	Nil
Facelifts / Meloplasty	Nil
Correction of bat ear (>16 years old)	Nil
Tattoo removal procedures	Nil
Removal of benign moles, skin tags, revision of scar, removal of keloid scarring, removal of sebaceous cyst, or any skin abnormality deemed to be wholly aesthetic in nature	Nil
Candela Laser	Congenital abnormality – paediatrics < 17 years
Skin laser photocoagulation	Nil
Reversal of sterilisation	Nil
Circumcision without medical indication	Phimosis, paraphimosis, balanitis, Frenulum breve
Bariatric Surgery	Only referred from the Obesity Management Service
Varicose Veins	CEAP Grade >2
<b>Reproductive Organ Surgery</b>	
Insertion of artificial erection devices	Nil
Gender reassignment surgery	Congenital abnormalities in children
Phalloplasty	Congenital abnormalities in children
Labioplasty	Nil

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If a GP would like to refer a patient to a public hospital outpatient clinic for assessment of surgical options for an excluded procedure a very detailed referral about the condition and impact on the patient will need to be provided.

The referral should include supporting documentation wherever possible eg For example, a patient requesting breast reduction or abdominoplasty for severe intertrigo will need a letter from a dermatologist stating this procedure is clinically required to improve this patient's health after failure of medical therapy, or documented evidence of two admissions to hospital for treatment of cellulitis.

If a patient requests an excluded procedure for alleviation of significant psychiatric symptoms a letter from a Psychiatrist will need to be included with the outpatient department referral stating this procedure is required to improve the patient's mental state.

The triaging clinician will require this detailed information to assist with a decision to accept or reject the referral and if accepted, to triage the referral appropriately.

If the referral is accepted and the patient is reviewed in OPD, the treating Clinician can apply for an exemption to the excluded procedures list if they feel surgery is warranted.

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### GP Liaison Unit

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Newsletter December 2017 GP advisor Calvary Health Care ACT

Well, another year has skipped by with only a few weeks to the Christmas Season. Wishing all of you a peaceful break and I hope you get away over the holidays.

**Just a reminder about the LOCATION CHANGE for OPD Calvary** – the location for most OPD specialist clinics has moved from the Marion building to the ground floor of the Lewisham building. Patients are informed and sent a map prior to the OPD appointment. It is best to park in the multistorey carpark and cross the road to enter either at the main entrance or the Lewisham building entrance. Both have signs to follow to the OPD clinic.

**New CT for Calvary** – I reported a few months back that Calvary would be implementing a new CT scanner that would have space for external GP referrals. It was expected this new facility would be up and running by now however there have been delays in the build phase. It is expected to be operational early in 2018. We will keep you updated.

**GP Healthnet** - When specialists retire or stop working at Calvary we leave the details with contact numbers, forwarding details, plans for transition etc. on GP Healthnet for 6 months and then remove the listing. Please ensure that you check GP Healthnet occasionally for currency of information.

**GRACE** – Geriatric Rapid Acute Care Evaluation Service is a Calvary outreach trial at limited RACF sites (Calvary Haydon Retirement Village, Bill McKenzie Gardens, Villaggio Sant' Antonio, RFBI Canberra Masonic Village (Kalparrin Aged Care Facility) and Kangara Waters in North Canberra and for all RACF ED presentations. GRACE provides support in a variety of ways aiming to facilitate safe acute care of patients in the appropriate environment. This service will always contact the GP and will send a summary of events on letterhead. If you are a GP servicing these facilities and have not heard of this service or have questions please contact the team on 0439 216 143. The team are keen to engage GPs and collaborate with care plan/requirements.

**GP Notifications** – Calvary and CHHS have different systems for GP notifications. Recently, Calvary upgraded their system and this caused a glitch in the presentation of the information. I apologise for the confusion surrounding this. The presentation issues, I understand, have been fixed, however there are a few labelling issues still to be figured out. There is a technical explanation which is complicated and involves the interface between healthlink and our new system. During this time we had feedback that not all admission notifications occurred. Our system has been set up so that if the patient is admitted and discharged on the same day that the GP only receives the discharge notification. The notification will only be sent if the GP is identified at admission and consent for information transfer is obtained. This means occasionally if the patient is not conscious or able to give this information at admission the GP will not be informed of admission/discharge. However, if the GP is identified during the inpatient stay and consent given, the GP will receive a discharge summary. Finally, the notification is a short note to inform GP of admission/discharge and the discharge summary is a separate document.

GP notifications can be switched off if requested by the practice. If a practice wants to change this they just need to contact GPLU who can reflect the practices wishes in the system.

#### Communicating with GPLU Calvary:

**Email:** [gpliaison@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:gpliaison@calvary-act.com.au) **Phone:** 6201 6815 **Fax:** 6264 7223

We are a small unit of one RN and 0.2 FTE GP. At times the phone is not manned e.g. when we are offsite or during leave (there is partial backfill only), please leave a message. Alternatively, email us your concern – this email is accessible by everyone who works with Calvary GPLU, including me when I am not at work.

We are always happy to receive good or constructive feedback. We are interested to receive information where different or better communication can improve transitions of care. Examples of where care transitions could be improved are always helpful.

Dr Julie Carr

GP Advisor Calvary Public Hospital Bruce

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#### Regular Educational Events

- Paediatric Grand Rounds, Tuesdays TCH Auditorium, 8.15am
- Geriatric Medicine Unit Education Meetings, TCH Auditorium, Tuesdays 12.30pm (Except the third Tuesday of the month)
- Grand Rounds, TCH Auditorium Wednesday 12.00pm
- Infectious Disease Clinical Meeting, TCH Auditorium, Thursday 12.45pm
- GP Grand Rounds, ANU Auditorium, as notified by fax or email.
- Calvary Grand Rounds, Wednesday 12-12:45pm Functions room

#### GP LIAISON UNIT Contact Numbers

GP Liaison Office TCH - (02) 6244 4183 email TCH - [gpliaison@act.gov.au](mailto:gpliaison@act.gov.au) Fax: (02) 6205 2826

Currently Vacant TCH GP Advisor

Morag McNair - GP Liaison Officer Calvary Hospital - (02) 6201 6815 [morag.mcnair@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:morag.mcnair@calvary-act.com.au)

Dr Julie Carr—Calvary GP Advisor email: [julie.carr@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:julie.carr@calvary-act.com.au)

GP Liaison email Calvary - [gpliaison@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:gpliaison@calvary-act.com.au) Fax: (02) 6264 7223

#### Canberra Hospital GP Liaison Christmas closure dates

The GP Liaison offices will be open for business as usual until 1630 on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, GPLU staff will only be dealing with final reports and administrative tasks to prepare for the Christmas break.

The unit will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

During this time please contact the Hospital Switch Board on 6244 2000 and ask that they direct your call to the relevant ward or department.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We look forward to working with you all again in 2018 and thank you for your continued support of our unit.

#### Calvary Hospital GP Liaison Christmas closure dates

The Calvary GPLU will be closed from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (inclusive).

During this time please contact Health Information Services (previously known as Medical Records) Ph. 6201 6280 however, Health information Services will be closed on the following Public Holidays: 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January. The department will be open as usual as from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

Alternatively please contact the Main Hospital Switch on 6201 6111 and ask that they direct your call to the relevant ward or department you wish to speak with.

Merry Christmas.

#### Calvary Specialist Outpatient Clinics closure dates

The Calvary Specialist Outpatient Clinics will be closed from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (inclusive).

#### Dr Peter French closing Calvary Public Hospital cardiology Outpatient clinic

After many years working as a respected Cardiologist, Dr Peter French is retiring from Calvary Public Hospital Bruce on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Hence, there will be no cardiology outpatient clinic at Calvary Public Hospital until a replacement for Dr French is appointed.

Current patients will be discharged or referred to another Cardiologist.

Patients on his waiting list have been referred back to their GP.

Enquiries PH: 6264 7284

#### Dr Rajay Rampersad—Paediatric Survey—Final reminder!

Dr Rajay Rampersad is a paediatric surgeon and urologist who is currently researching undescended testis. The survey questions will assist him to gain an understanding of current knowledge and investigation/referral patterns in the ACT/surrounding region and to help direct future education. Rajay is hoping to get >80% completion rate.

The survey will not take longer than a few minutes.

The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N8KYYWB>

Many thanks for your time and we would like to thank those GPs who have already completed the survey.



#### Canberra Mothercraft Society and Relationships Australia – Relaxing into Parenting and Baby Makes 3 Group

Relaxing into Parenting and Baby Makes 3 is an evidence based program aimed at increasing the confidence of expectant parents during their transition to family life. The participants will gain skills to manage stress, strengthen relationships and know where to seek personal and professional support in the community when they need it.

This is a free group conducted over four weeks during the prenatal period and one session postnatally.

If you have patients who may be interested in attending a group please ask them to contact Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre;

[www.qeii.org.au](http://www.qeii.org.au) or 02 6205 2333 for more information and bookings.

#### Territory Wide Health Services Framework - Draft

This draft Framework will underpin the ACT's future health system by enabling patients to access care when they need it, delivered by the right team in the right place.

The draft Framework will support the development of new clinical Centres, which will group speciality services through Centre Service Plans and Specialty Service Plans. They will have people at the heart of health care delivery, making it easier for people to navigate the health system and receive the care they need; whether that is preventative care, community-based care or care in the hospital.

It will also inform the ACT Government's plans to significantly upgrade existing health buildings, as well as build new purpose-built facilities across Canberra. The draft Framework will also be developed alongside a new Health Quality Framework and Preventative Health Strategy. Together these pieces of work will guide and strengthen the delivery of services to keep Canberrans as healthy as they can be.

ACT Health will closely engage with its own workforce and key partners in the development of the Centres and Specialty Services Plans. In addition, a Territory-wide Health Services Advisory Group will be established to assist in this important effort.

You will find more information on the plan via the link below:

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/about-us/territory-wide-health-services/principles-underpinning-territory-wide-health-services>

#### Medical Director GP Liaison TCH

Dr Anne-Marie Svoboda has been appointed to the position of Medical Director GP Liaison at The Canberra Hospital and will take up the position at the end of January 2018. We would like to welcome Dr Svoboda to the GP Liaison Team and we look forward to working with Dr Svoboda on the continued engagement with GPs in the ACT and surrounding regions.

We congratulate her on being successful in the role.



#### ACT Health's Smoke Free Environment

Prior to admission, all patients should be advised that:

- All ACT Health facilities and grounds are smoke free and smoking is not permitted on any ACT Health site at any time.
- During admission to hospital, inpatients will be offered free NRT, counselling and strategies to manage withdrawal and cravings.
- Patients should be provided with NRT prior to admission, by their GP, to support their stay in hospital.
- Support is also available for outpatients and visitors with Quitline (Phone 137 848) providing free Quitpacks, advice, multi-lingual support and ongoing telephone counselling or the No More Boondah Program on 6284 6222.



#### Request re attendance at GP Liaison Unit Education events

The GP Liaison Units at Canberra and Calvary hospitals organise education events that we consider are of interest and relevant to GPs. We have hospital specialists who are willing to give up their time to present so we try to aim for good attendance at these events to make it worthwhile for both the speakers and attendees. We also provide light refreshments.

We would like to thank the GPs who contact us in advance to let us know they are unable to attend an event that they have sent in an RSVP for. Unfortunately we still seem to get a lot of GPs who do not attend on the night despite sending in an RSVP.

While we understand that unplanned events occur which may cause a sudden change of plan we encourage you to please contact us in advance if you are unable to attend so we can adjust the expected numbers for both the speakers and the catering providers.

We look forward to providing more quality education events in 2018 and hope to see you there.

#### ACT Health Response to Transvaginal Mesh

Transvaginal mesh is a medical product that has been used to treat pelvic organ prolapse (POP) for the past 10 – 15 years.

Whilst many women have benefited from such operations, increasing numbers of women around Australia have been reporting a variety of complications from the operations related to the procedure. The product design and implantation techniques for transvaginal mesh have been implicated to be responsible for serious, life-altering complications in some women.

On 15 February 2017 a Senate Inquiry was launched into transvaginal mesh implants. The report from this Inquiry is expected on 14 February 2018.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has since removed a number of mesh products whose sole use is the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse via transvaginal implantation from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

ACT Health has been proactive in our response to this matter. A working group was established to develop an associated action plan to address this issue.

As per other jurisdictions, ACT Health has no register to capture all the women who have had this procedure. To identify patients with transvaginal mesh implanted, data was collected from the register of associated implants products. This has enabled ACT Health to identify women who have had the transvaginal mesh or midurethral slings inserted. These patients will be contacted to give them the opportunity to provide feedback on the outcome of their surgery.

From the beginning of January 2018, ACT Health will establish a Review Clinic and dedicated telephone line for women to contact with any concerns. Reviews will be offered to concerned women in either public or private rooms, depending on their preference. A GP referral will be required for billing purposes.

ACT Health welcomes your input to this process. Please call 02 6174 7474 or email [meshreview@act.gov.au](mailto:meshreview@act.gov.au) for information.

#### Dr Anna Hughes

I am writing to let you know that I have changed my name from Anna Burger to Anna Hughes, in both my professional and personal life.

My new email addresses are [Anna.Hughes@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:Anna.Hughes@calvary-act.com.au) or [Anna.Hughes@act.gov.au](mailto:Anna.Hughes@act.gov.au)

I will continue in my current roles as a:

1. Liaison Psychiatrist in the Calvary Consultation Liaison Service, and
2. Psycho-oncologist at the Canberra Region Cancer Centre where I see patients with specific cancer related psychological distress and psychiatric illness. This is my only outpatient clinic.

The fax number for referrals to the Cancer Centre is: (02) 6244 2271

I do not see patients at Calvary Private Hospital and I do not have a private practice.