

# Developments



A newsletter for referring General Practitioners | Edition 2

## Message from Primary Care Liaison

Welcome to this edition which I hope you will find informative and clinically relevant.

I'd like to remind GPs that registrations have officially opened for the Paediatric Masterclass on 24 October. GPs who previously registered online to receive a full program should have received their email about how to confirm registration and pay. Please note: attendance is not confirmed until payment has been received. This can be done by following the Masterclass link below. It will be a great day of education and networking and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

On another note, LCCH is still receiving many out of catchment referrals, and this can cause unnecessary delays for children accessing care. A map of the LCCH local catchment area can be found at [www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/LCCH\\_zone-map](http://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/LCCH_zone-map)

Staff from the Brisbane North and South PHNs can assist GPs in identifying their local hospital for general paediatric services during upcoming visits, or GPs can phone me on 3068 3648.

Best regards,  
Dr Dana Newcomb

## Concerning increase in diabetic ketoacidosis in children

Recently at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) we have seen a higher than expected number of children with Type 1 diabetes presenting for the first time with diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). Some of these children have been seriously unwell at presentation.

Type 1 diabetes ("Insulin Dependent Diabetes") remains overwhelmingly the commonest form of diabetes in children, by at least 100-fold. Early identification in primary care is essential if these children are to avoid significant morbidity. GPs need to remain vigilant to the possibility of this disorder in order to detect it before DKA ensues.

Type 1 diabetes is a polygenic disorder sometimes associated with auto-immune disease in the family. Its incidence is rising across the world for as yet undetermined environmental reasons. Whilst it can occur at any age in childhood, there are peaks of presentation in preschoolers and adolescents.

Type 2 diabetes, although a serious condition when it presents in the teenager, is still very rare in young children. It typically occurs on the

background of a family history of type 2 diabetes, and is usually accompanied by severe obesity with darkening of the skin of the neck and axillae (acanthosis). It is commoner in some ethnic groups.

All children therefore with suspected diabetes should be assumed to have type 1 diabetes. **There is NO place for diagnostic testing before referral – all children MUST be seen on the day of presentation via the local ED service. Please do not refer through outpatients!**

Presenting features are the classic triad of polyuria, polydipsia and weight loss accompanied by excessive tiredness, and sometimes skin infections or thrush. Secondary enuresis is a red flag for the diagnosis. There may also be abdominal pain, vomiting, altered consciousness and deep breathing – signs of DKA – requiring immediate admission to paediatric intensive care for intravenous treatment.

Newly presenting Type 1 diabetes should be viewed as a medical emergency as DKA can rapidly supervene and children may die or suffer serious morbidity if diagnosis is delayed.

By Professor Jerry Wales  
Director of Endocrinology

## Paediatric Masterclass - finalise your registration

If you have already registered your interest in attending the inaugural Paediatric Masterclass at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital on 24 October, it's now time to finalise your registration, including payment, to secure your spot.

The cost is \$170.50 (incl. GST), and payment can only be made via the secure online registration page.

For more information, go to the Masterclass webpage [www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/lcch-events](http://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/lcch-events) or email [CHQ.GPLO@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHQ.GPLO@health.qld.gov.au)



# Emergency Department news

## Referrals to outpatients

Patients presenting to the LCCH emergency department often require subsequent referral to our specialist outpatient departments. If the condition meets the criteria for a category 1 referral (most urgent), this will be completed by the treating doctor in ED and the GP will be notified.

When the condition is less urgent (a category 2 or 3 condition), the patient will be referred back to the GP to complete the referral. This is to enable the GP to monitor the patient's condition while they wait for an outpatient appointment, as well as to consider whether a referral to a private specialist might be preferred instead.

Please be aware that patients who are seen in the emergency department are not able to access outpatient appointments any quicker than those referred by GPs.

## Paediatric MRIs

Children with acute neurological signs requiring urgent, same day MRIs should be referred to the emergency department.

For other indications, in which an MRI is required within a few days, GPs are often able to organise these more expeditiously through a private provider.

For more information on Medicare eligible paediatric services, visit [www.medicalimagingforgps.com.au/indications](http://www.medicalimagingforgps.com.au/indications)



LCCH emergency department entrance, Stanley St, South Brisbane

## Grand rounds

GPs are welcome to attend Grand Rounds at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. These occur every Wednesday morning from 7.45am to 9am. Alternatively, GPs can view recordings of Grand Rounds online at a later date. To apply for log-in details for online access, email [chq\\_medical\\_education@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:chq_medical_education@health.qld.gov.au)

### LCCH grand rounds topics, September 2015

2 Sept	Turner Syndrome – Dr Sarah McMahon
9 Sept	Cardiac genetics – Dr Julie McGaughan and Dr Jim Morwood
16 Sept	Healthy Hearing – Dr Alison Harris
23 Sept	Child protection (topic TBA) – Dr Jan Connors
30 Sept	Management of challenging behaviour – Dr Honey Heussler



LCCH pharmacy

## Antibiotic stewardship research project

A team from UQ, Bond University and QUT are looking for general practices to become involved in an exciting new research project.

The project will evaluate the uptake and effectiveness of a number of interventions for the management of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) in general practice, including access to near patient testing with C-reactive protein (CRP).

Participating practices will receive \$1,000 and GPs will be eligible for 40 Cat 1 and 4 category 2 CPD points. If you are interested in participating in this study and would like further information please contact Dr Minyon Avent by emailing [m.avent@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.avent@uq.edu.au)

## External providers of GP paediatric education

Children's Health Queensland has close links to other providers of GP education in Brisbane and nationally.

### Advanced Paediatric Life Support

Advanced Paediatric Life Support, Australia (APLS) aims to improve the early management of acutely ill and injured children in Australia through the training and education of health care professionals. APLS courses are recognised as being the international gold standard in paediatric emergency training, and would be particularly valuable for GPs working in rural and remote areas. Courses are held regularly throughout the year in Brisbane and elsewhere. For more information, visit [www.apls.org.au](http://www.apls.org.au)

### Diploma in Child Health

The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital is proud to be affiliated with the Diploma in Child Health (DCH) offered through the Children's Hospital at Westmead. The DCH provides participants with a comprehensive overview of current best practice in paediatrics, through a series of webcasts, newsletters and case studies. It is a highly regarded qualification and very affordable. Interested GPs are encouraged to find out more at [www.magga.org.au](http://www.magga.org.au)

### Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

RCH Melbourne has an online GP education program, called the Practical Paediatrics Program Online [www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/pppo](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/pppo)