

Health for Kids Network

The Health for Kids Network (HFKN) is a network of GPs interested in child and adolescent health. The network aims to:

- Improve communication between GPs, hospitals and other agencies providing child and adolescent health services
- Foster a more collaborative approach to child and adolescent health care and research
- Facilitate ongoing education of GPs
- Encourage and assist families to develop a relationship with a GP
- Provide opportunities for collaborative research in child and adolescent health

The Network operates through a web-site and offers:

- An online directory of GPs interested in child and/or adolescent health which hospitals, community health centres, other agencies as well as the general public can access
- An online library of useful information on child and/or adolescent health
- Listings of new events or publications in child and adolescent health that are relevant to GPs.
- Information about current research that GPs can participate in.

You can register online at:

www.healthforkids.net.au

GP Access

www.southernhealth.org.au/gp

A website for GPs to access and refer to Southern Health hospital and community based services.

You can use GP Access to find

- the right service for a client's needs
- how to refer to that service
- key information needed in a referral
- how the referral process works
- location & hours of operation of the service
- eligibility criteria
- cost, if any, to the client
- alternative services
- a relevant contact person if you require more information

GP Access is found at

www.southernhealth.org.au/gp

User name: southernhealth

Password: gpaccess

For more information about these services contact:

GP Advice Line

Dr Sue Kermond susan.kermond@southernhealth.org.au

Paediatric Asthma Educators

Mr Craig Moore asthma@cbchs.org.au

Health for Kids in the South East

Dr Claire Harris claire.harris@med.monash.edu.au

GP Access to Southern Health

Dr Sharon Monagle sharon.monagle@southernhealth.org.au

New Paediatric Services for GPs

- GP Advice Line
- Asthma Educators
- Evidence-Based Guidelines
- Health for Kids Network
- GP Access to Southern Health



Best practice & partnerships

GP Advice Line

1800 623 483

A dedicated telephone line for GPs to obtain advice from the paediatrician on call at MMC.

Criteria

- Paediatric patient (<16 yo) who lives in the Southern Health catchment area
- Acute paediatric medical problem
- Consultant paediatric opinion required for diagnosis or management
- Telephone consultation may be all that is required for GP to continue management of the patient

If advice would normally be sought from a private paediatrician this practice should continue. If the patient requires urgent attention the Emergency Department should be contacted directly on 9594 2430.

Call process

Ring **1800 623 483** (your call will be answered as a priority)

Ask to speak to the paediatrician on call and provide the operator with your details. You may be connected directly or the paediatrician will return your call as soon as they are available.

The Advice Line is for GP access only and is NOT available for parents or patients.

As this service is being evaluated, you may be asked what you would have done if the GP Advice Line was not available.

Asthma Educators

Paediatric asthma educators are available for consultation with children and families who live in the Kingston-Bayside and Casey areas, providing individualised asthma education over two or three sessions. These services are either free or low cost.

Areas covered with each patient include:

- What is asthma?
- How to identify and manage asthma triggers
- Medications – when and how to use them
- Hands-on training in use of devices
- How to recognise acute symptoms
- Preventing and managing exercise induced asthma
- How to use an Asthma Action Plan
- Encouraging families to have a regular GP and complete the 3+ Visit Plan

Current Asthma Australia educational resources are used and feedback on children discharged from the service is delivered back to the GP. Children with asthma who do not have a regular GP will be encouraged and assisted to find one.

Referral criteria

- Child/adolescent with infrequent episodic, frequent episodic or persistent asthma
- Family must reside in the Cities of Kingston, Bayside or Casey
- Patients aged up to 24 years are accepted

Contact

Cities of Kingston or Bayside
— Call Craig Moore on 8587 0200

City of Casey
— Call Christalia Formoso on 5990 6789

Evidence-Based Guidelines

With funding from the Victorian Department of Human Services, the Health for Kids project is developing evidence-based guidelines for the management of common childhood illnesses.

Guidelines for asthma, bronchiolitis, croup and gastroenteritis are being developed by a multi-disciplinary group including representatives of:

- GPs
- Senior and junior hospital doctors
- Nurses
- Allied health
- Consumers

The guidelines are designed to cover the whole episode of care, including diagnosis and management, in both hospital and general practice settings.

For each condition, the resources developed include:

- A detailed evidence-based guideline
- One page algorithms which summarise the guideline
- A clinical path for in-hospital care
- Patient information

The completed guidelines and other resources are available on the Health for Kids website:

www.med.monash.edu.au/healthservices/hfk/gp.html