

Alfred Health GP News

**Welcome to the October edition
of Alfred Health GP news.**

Contact us for any queries on
9076 2620, or email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au

New General Cardiology Clinic at Caulfield Hospital

A General Cardiology Clinic is set to commence at the Caulfield Hospital mid to late November. The clinic is a bulk-billed specialist service supported by the Alfred Hospital Heart Centre.

The clinic welcomes referrals for patients with a variety of cardiac conditions including chest pain syndromes, valvular heart disease, heart failure, arrhythmias (AF, SVT, palpitations), post-MI, and post-cardiac surgery patients.

All referrals will be triaged according to urgency and the clinic will endeavour to book patients in as soon as feasible (please note the clinic will not be opening until mid-late Nov).



The Cardiologist commencing the service is Dr Roshan Prakash MBBS MRCP FRACP FCSANZ, a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist and Cardiac CT Specialist currently based at the Alfred Heart Centre. Dr Prakash will see all patients at the clinic and coordinate cardiac investigations such as echocardiograms, stress tests, and Holter monitors.

Patients requiring advance cardiac investigations such coronary angiogram, cardiac MRI, cardiac CT will be booked for the procedures at the Alfred Hospital Heart Centre.

The team at the new Cardiology Clinic is excited to work with the local General Practitioners to provide high-quality, efficient, patient-centred cardiology care for the local community.

Dr Prakash is also very happy to come out to local practices to meet with GPs about this new service or to provide education. If your practice would be interested in having Dr Prakash come out, please email gp.liaison@alfred.org.au to organise a time and date.

Clinic Time: Fortnightly on alternate Monday mornings.

To refer to the clinic:

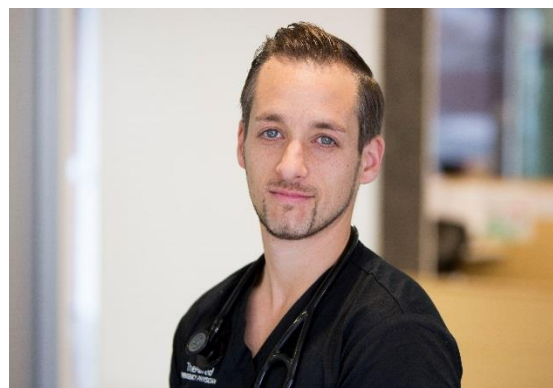
Fax referral to: (03) 9076 6435

Or go to [The Alfred Cardiology](#) webpage

Emergency at Alfred Health improving collaboration with GPs

Alfred Health Emergency is constantly striving to improve patient care and communication with GPs, and has appointed Emergency Physician Dr Rohan Laging to the role of Emergency Department representative to collaborate with our GP Liaison service.

Rohan (MBBS (Hons.) FACEM) is a Specialist Emergency Physician who has been with the Alfred Hospital since 2004 with particular interest in patient flow, trauma and the elderly patient, and who understands the importance of high quality and timely communication between care providers in hospitals and the community.



Rohan has some handy tips for facilitating care of patients attending Alfred Emergency:

- The ED Admitting Officer welcomes calls from GPs to provide advice. Between 7am and midnight the phone is carried by a Specialist Emergency Physician, and outside of these times by a Senior Registrar. You do not need to phone if you are sending a patient to ED unless there is information you would like to convey that can't be provided in a referral letter. The direct telephone number for the Admitting Officer is 9076 2960.
- There can be a reluctance to administer analgesia when sending a patient to the ED; however, analgesia does not obscure patient assessment and it is always appropriate to give at least paracetamol and/or ibuprofen to your patient if experiencing pain (dependent on patient factors).
- Children are not routinely seen at The Alfred and should not be directed to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre. Acutely unwell children should be referred to the Royal Children's Hospital or Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. Children that are less unwell or who need a procedure (including suturing and fracture management) can be directed to the Sandringham and District Memorial Hospital Emergency Department. All Sandringham Emergency Consultants and Registrars are trained in the management of acute paediatric issues.
- The General Medicine unit has a dedicated phone number for GPs to call for direct access to a registrar to arrange admissions directly to the ward, or Medical Day Unit admissions for iron and blood transfusions etc. The hotline can also be utilised for complex care patients who are deteriorating in the community, not only for advice but also to link patients with HARP services, outpatient clinics, home visits etc. The GP Hotline number is 0428 626 183. MATS (Mobile Assessment and Treatment Service) and GEM (Geriatric Evaluation and Management) can also arrange for appropriate patients to be assessed in residential care or at home, as an alternative to sending patients to the Emergency Department. Do not send patients requiring iron infusion to the Emergency Department.

- Finally, if your patient already has an outpatient appointment but needs to be seen sooner (but is not acutely unwell), please contact the unit registrar via Switchboard on 9076 2000 to arrange an earlier review rather than sending the patient to the Emergency Department.

The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre has recently completed its redevelopment.

If you would like a tour by one of our Emergency Physicians, please contact the GP Liaison service to register your interest via email gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.

The Alfred Pain Symposium – Opioids Friends or Foe

The Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine at Alfred Health are holding a GP symposium "*Opioids Friends or Foe: Updates on the clinical conundrum*" on **Saturday 27th October from 8am-4:00pm**. The symposium will be held at Monash University Central Clinical School, The Alfred Centre.

40 Category 1 CME points have been approved for this event by the RACGP. Morning tea and lunch are provided.

For further details and to register please follow link <https://painmedicine.org.au/>

Integrated care community of practice event

GPs and practice staff from the Bayside and Glen Eira areas are warmly invited to attend this event which aims to bring together general practice, community health services, hospitals, council services, allied health services, community pharmacies, social services, social groups and others with a view to improving awareness and connectivity between local services.

The evening will include a powerful patient story and will enable unique perspectives from various sectors. This will involve a facilitated discussion and provide an opportunity to network and share ideas for patient centred care in the region.

The evening will be held on Wednesday 14th November from 6-7:30pm at Elsternwick RSL.

There is no cost to attend but please register [here](#) for catering purposes – refreshments will be provided.

For further information see flyer attached with email or please contact Lucy Bassett on 9076 2620 or email info@adma.org.au.

HepatoPancreatoBiliary and Oesophago-gastric & Bariatric services

The Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery Unit (UGIS) has recently been restructured into two new units:

- [Oesophago-gastric/ Bariatric and General Surgery Service](#) (OGB) – Director A/Prof Peter Nottle (acting director Prof Wendy Brown)
- [HepatoPancreatoBiliary and General Surgery Service](#) (HPB) – Director Mr Marty Smith

Please click on these units to access their new webpages including their referral guidelines.

There is also now an OG Cancer Nurse Coordinator. All referrals for patients with confirmed or highly suspected oesophagogastric cancer should be phoned through to the OG Cancer Nurse Coordinator or to the OGB registrar via switch (ph 9076 2000) in addition to faxing the referral to 9076 6938.

Please find attached with this email a flyer you may wish to print and display at your practice.

GPs are invited to attend Grand Rounds at The Alfred

The Alfred Hospital Grand Round is the premier weekly event on campus where physicians, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, anaesthetists, researchers, Alfred Health registrars and other trainees enjoy a convivial and educational atmosphere with a broad cross-section of their colleagues. GPs are warmly invited to attend.

The Alfred Grand Rounds are held **each Thursday in the AMREP seminar room, from 12.30 – 1.30pm**. Lunch is provided from 12pm. Each session begins with a 5-minute clinical vignette for discussion, followed by the main presentation of 45 minutes’ duration, with time for questions.

The program includes speakers from most disciplines, including medicine, surgery, anaesthesia, trauma and the on-site research institutes.

Upcoming Grand Rounds are:

Thursday 11 th October	Invitation to the release of the Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Clinical Care Standard - presented by A/Prof Huyen Tran & Dr Harry Gibbs
Thursday 18th October	No meeting
Thursday 25th October	Radiology - Dr Dinesh Varma
Thursday 1st November	Biochemistry – Prof Hans Schneider

Please note, the scheduled topics for the Grand Rounds may change.

For further information or to receive details of each week’s Grand Round by email, please contact Priyanka Chahal on 9903 0198, or email P.Chahal@alfred.org.au.

GP Liaison Service at Alfred Health – we’re here to help!



Our GP Liaison team –Tracey O’Connell, Amelia Matlock, Dr Josie Samers and Lucy Bassett – are here to assist you in navigating Alfred Health. Whether it’s a missing discharge summary, assistance with getting an outpatient appointment or suggestions on how we can do things better, we are here to help. Our office is attended from Monday to Friday; phone 9076 2620 or email us gp.liaison@alfred.org.au. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.