

Referral Process RBHSC

RE: Change in CCG options for Belfast Trust

E-triage, which is currently used by many specialties in the Belfast Trust, will be rolled out to paediatric medicine in RBHSC in 2021. This will involve a slight change in the available CCG referral options for GPs. These changes will streamline the system, as well as more accurately reflecting existing practice.

Currently, when a referral is made to paediatric medicine, endocrinology, gastroenterology, neurology, respiratory and rheumatology these referrals are initially triaged, using a paper system, by a general paediatrician and children are first appointed to a general paediatric medical clinic. Many nephrology referrals are redirected from the tertiary services to general paediatrics in the first instance. This causes administrative difficulties in RBHSC and also creates parental and GP expectation that the child is waiting to see a regional specialist. The proposed changes to the CCG destinations are set out below:

	Current Display	New Display (from 26/2/21)
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY	PAED MEDICINEGen - Endocrine
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY	PAED MEDICINEGen- Gastro
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC MEDICINE	PAED MEDICINE <i>(no change)</i>
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY	PAED MEDICINEGen – Nephrology
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY	PAED MEDICINEGen – Neurology
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	PAEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY	PAED MEDICINEGen – Resp
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	<i>(No option currently)</i>	PAED MEDICINEGen – Rheum

The service will be enhanced in that the consultant paediatrician grading the referrals will be able to refer some children directly to regional services if the information in the referral letter suggests this is appropriate. There is no change in practice required at the GP end – it is just that the CCG destinations will look differently at the point of referral. The change is an important step in moving towards an electronic system which will offer an enhanced service to children, families and GPs. We will let you know of further developments with eTRIAGE as they roll out. Belfast Trust will also be altering its OPD appt letters to ensure that patient's parents expectations are also managed in respect of the type of paediatrician that the child will see.

Best wishes

RBHSC E-triage team

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