

PAC/ PAC follow-up

Each week a resident/ intern pair will be allocated to PAC/ PAC follow-up. Mondays include a minor PAC clinic via Telehealth, and Thursdays are allocated to a major PAC clinic via Telehealth (complex patients, anaesthetist present to review all patients). The rest of your roster will include a mixture of allocation for PAC follow-up, x-ray triage, wound and fracture clinic, x-ray meeting (resident only role), theatre, Mr Clifford clinic (Wednesday) and Friday consultant clinic, etc.

During your PAC week, tasks that require your attention will manifest via the “PAC/PACFU jobs” and “Ortho Elective/Trauma” groups on WhatsApp (so be attentive and prompt to those requests), the elective surgery list (chasing imaging and pathology requests - usually requires contacting patients directly to follow-up) and of course from your Telehealth appointments on Monday and Thursday.

Our Surgical Liaison Nurses (SLNs) generate and update the elective bookings in the form of an Excel spreadsheet available on the computer shared drive (“This PC,” then “Shared” under network locations, then “orthopaedics”. Currently, this is a “read-only file” and can only be edited by the SLNs. I recommend importing that excel file onto our google drive so that you can track your progress (pathology including G&H, imaging, etc.), and our SLNs are very helpful in that they send us a list with the proposed elective list and any changes/ cancellations. Our SLNs are also happy to be contacted directly with questions about the elective lists.

Our SLNs will send pathology request forms for FBE, extended G&H, UEC, LFTs, and coagulation studies to our major elective joint replacement patients. We are responsible for ordering pathology for all other elective procedures. We need to ensure that these are paired with the correct pre-op X-rays (including template markers for hips and knees). Generally, imaging should be within 3 months of the procedure date; however, this is not a hard and fast rule. If in doubt about the types of imaging and pathology requests, contact the registrar assigned to the elective case (can be found on google drive under “WH reg roster”). The ortho PAC guidelines found in the PAC rooms in the drawers are beneficial in guiding pathology and imaging orders.

Forward your pathology request forms via email to:
whs.dorclinic@dorevitch.com.au AND whf.dorclinic@dorevitch.com.au

I also send out the pathology request forms via email to the patient to ensure they have a copy if it is “misplaced.”

It is essential that the necessary imaging and pathology are ordered before the operation date. Understandably, patients may encounter challenges attending to these requests before surgery due to other commitments, and they may express that they can't complete the pre-op investigations. However, we must educate our patients and stress that delaying such investigations may impede surgery and even risk cancellation. Furthermore, G&H requests can only be undertaken at Footscray or Sunshine campuses.

- Anthony El-Bitar