

# AAU REFERRAL INFORMATION FOR GPs



The Acute Assessment Unit (AAU) is a unit which has been developed in local hospitals aiming to provide patients and referring doctors with a medical service that eliminates long waits in the Emergency Department (ED) and delivers a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive care plan for patients with complex medical issues.

Hospitals may have different names for this unit, including MAU (Medical Assessment Unit), AAU (Acute Assessment Unit), APU (Assessment and Planning Unit). It is recommended that they are located either within or alongside the ED.

Admission to the AAU means that the patient is seen quickly by the AAU clinical team, composed of doctors, nurses and allied health staff. The AAU team assesses the patient and plans investigations, treatment and discharge options.

The AAU accepts Medical patients from any of the following sources:

1. ED Triage
2. The ED floor
3. GPs and other doctors' rooms
4. Hospital outpatient clinics

Appropriate patients for AAU are ones that have a medical condition which is not critical but is likely to require an admission to hospital. Many patients are elderly and many have a number of medical co-morbidities.

Some patients can go home with assistance at home from the hospital in the home (APAC) and/or the Aged Care team as well as their GP and community nurses.

Other patients require admission under the care of the appropriate medical team. Most patients spend less than 24 hours in the AAU while assessment, planning and treatment are carried out.

## **Admission Criteria for AAU:**

- Any medical patient who is not critically unwell and not severe sepsis on sepsis pathway
- All cardiac patients except for undifferentiated chest pain, new AF or high risk acute coronary syndrome
- All gastroenterology patients except acute upper GI bleeding and oesophageal FB
- All neurology except acute stroke, acute severe headache and new onset seizures
- All respiratory except those requiring CPAP, BIPAP, and chest drain, intercostal catheter
- All renal
- All haematology
- All oncology
- All aged care
- All rheumatology

Phone: (02) 9432 8250  
Email: [admin@snhn.org.au](mailto:admin@snhn.org.au)  
Address: Suite 1, 154 Pacific Highway, St Leonards NSW 2065  
Post: PO Box 97, St Leonards NSW 1590  
ABN: 38 605 353 884  
[www.snhn.org.au](http://www.snhn.org.au)

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## Not suitable for:

- Paediatric patients
- Mental health patients with aggressive or violent behavior requiring sedation or requiring urgent psychiatric review
- Any patients that will likely require a surgical admission

**Royal North Shore Hospital:** AAU welcomes direct GP referrals from Monday to Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

**Referrals:** To make referrals, call **9463 2272** and request to speak to the AAU registrar, Nursing Unit Manager or Clinical Nurse Consultant. If the patient would be more appropriately admitted to the ED, the clinician will then hand them over to ED internally on behalf of the GP.

It is requested that all patients are referred to the AAU with a referral letter, copies of any previous test results and relevant correspondence, as well as details of any care plans in place.

A patient may also be booked to see a General Physician in the **AAU General Medicine Clinic** (should they need investigation, but not hospital admission). Direct GP referrals can be made to the clinic by calling **9463 2272** and discussing the patient with the AAU Registrar. Patients are usually seen in this clinic within 1-2 weeks.

For further information please contact the Primary Care Advancement and Integration Team on 9432 8250 or [scollins@snhn.org.au](mailto:scollins@snhn.org.au)

**Hornsby, Ryde, Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals:** Patients are admitted through the emergency departments. There is currently no direct GP referral. Ideally, patients should present with copies of previous test results and relevant correspondence, as well as details of any care plans in place. A phone call from the GP can be useful in helping staff prepare for the patient and get necessary background information.

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[www.snhn.org.au](http://www.snhn.org.au)