

COVID-19 - IMPORTANT Information for GP's - WE ARE OPEN

The Digestive Health Centre **remains open** and is following all DHHS, Commonwealth, GESA, NSQHS and other official recommendations to respond to the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). We have stringent infection control procedures to ensure the safety of our staff, patients and visitors.

As part of the COVID-19 response, on Thursday 16th July the Victorian government announced a cap on elective procedures performed in both public and private hospitals. As a result of this The Digestive Health Centre theatre will be operating at 75% capacity with only Category 1 and urgent category 2 gastroscopies and colonoscopies being performed.

Only Category 1 and urgent category 2 procedures will continue at The Digestive Health Centre until further notice. Our consulting services are in full operation and are being provided to patients via Telehealth (see overleaf for booking instructions). This includes our paediatric and allied health professionals.

In the interests of patient and staff safety, and to reduce COVID-19 in the broader community we have put a range of measures and precautions in place.

These include:

- Screening of our staff
- Pre operative COVID-19 testing available
- Social distancing practiced throughout the facility
- Additional cleaning and sanitation measures have been implemented
- Placement of extra Hand hygiene products around the facility
- Requiring all attending patients/carers/visitors to wear a mask
- Screening patients and visitors in order to provide safe care
- Limiting visitors/carer access
- Equipping our Endoscopists, Anaesthetists and Nurses with appropriate personal protective equipment
- Offering Telehealth (phone) consultations for all patients
- Conducting pre admission nurse consultations over the phone instead of face to face
- Preparation instructions are emailed to all patients undergoing a procedure
OR Preparation kits are posted, time allowing
- Offering cashless transactions
- Providing thorough post procedure follow up calls

At the Digestive Health Centre, your patient's Digestive Health is our priority. As we all navigate our way through this pandemic you can be assured that we will continue to provide the best quality of care to all of our patients.

Dr David Rubinstein
 MBBS FRACP
 Consultant
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Wayne Friedman
 MBBS(HONS) FRACP
 Consultant
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Malcolm Barnes
 MBBS(HONS) FRACP
 Gastroenterologist &
 Interventional Endoscopist

Dr Jacqui Dobson
 MBBS FRACP
 Consultant
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Shara Ket
 BSc MBBS FRACP
 Consultant
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Kristen Bechly
 MBBS FRACP
 Consultant
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Rupert Hinds
 MRCP FRACP
 Paediatric
 Gastroenterologist

Dr George Alex
 MRCP FRACP PhD
 Paediatric
 Gastroenterologist

Dr Tania Pietrzak
 BSc Grad.Dip.Appl.Psych PhD
 MAPS MASH
 Clinical Psychologist

Gabrielle Cocks
 B.Sc Grad.Dip.Dietetics
 Accredited Practising
 Dietician

Jennifer Porch
 Continence
 Physiotherapist

Robyn Brennen
 Continence
 Physiotherapist

Booking information for Telehealth consultations, phone consultations & urgent procedures

- Step 1:** Please indicate on your referral, if your patient requires a Telehealth consultation, Phone consultation or an urgent procedure
- Step 2:** Referrals can be sent to us via;
Fax – 9706 9119
Email via argus – argus@digestivehealth.com.au
- Step 3:** A Digestive Health team member will contact your patient to arrange a suitable time for consultation
- Step 4:** One of our Gastroenterologist's will contact your patient via phone or a video call platform

Please note MBS requirements:

Conditions to be met before using the new Covid-19 codes for Phone/Video Consultation (as at 18/03/2020)

Vulnerable, Isolated patients are those where at least one of the following apply:

- a) The person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 virus but who is not a patient of a hospital; or
- b) The person has been required to isolate themselves in quarantine in accordance with home isolation guidance issued by Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
- c) The person is considered more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus being a person who is:
 - a. At least 70 years old; or
 - b. At least 50 years old and is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; or
 - c. Is pregnant; or
 - d. Is a parent of a child under 12 months; or
 - e. Is already under treatment for chronic health conditions or is immune compromised; or
- d) The person meets the current national triage protocol criteria for suspected COVID-19 infection