

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

The Digestive Health Centre **is back to business as normal**. We are 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.

**We are excited to be back to full capacity. All elective colonoscopy & gastroscopy procedures are now being performed at The Digestive Health Centre. Our consulting services are also fully operation, including face to face consulting. Telehealth appointments are still available until December 2021 for patients who cannot attend the centre. 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
- 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  
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**Dr Shara Ket**  
 BSc MBBS FRACP  
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**Dr Kristen Bechly**  
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**Dr Rupert Hinds**  
 MRCP FRACP  
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 BSc Grad.Dip.Appl.Psych PhD  
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 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](mailto: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