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To: Aged Care Homes and GPs

19 March, 2008

Re: Austin Fast Track X-Ray – MARCH 2008 update!!!

A recent Austin Fast Track X-Ray review meeting at Austin Health has resulted in the following changes and improvements. These changes are included as green boxes on the March 2008 updated flow charts for aged care homes and GPs. Copies of the updated flow charts are enclosed.

Change of process for Aged Care Home staff:

Please fax **BOTH** of the following completed forms to Austin ED (Fax: 9496 3572)

- Austin Fast Track Radiology Notification and Patient Registration Form
- AND
- Austin Fast Track X-ray Request Form (red)

Both of these completed forms should be faxed to Austin ED prior to resident being sent. (Previously, only the Austin Fast Track Radiology Notification and Patient Registration Form needed to be faxed in advance to Austin ED.)

This will allow Austin Health to be as prepared as possible for the resident's arrival, and will help reduce turn-around time and any unnecessary delay for the resident. The original of both forms should still be sent to Austin ED with the resident. Please draw this change of process to the attention of all relevant staff.

We have also included additional information for GPs (below and overleaf) as GPs may ask aged care for information on the process.

How to obtain more Forms:

Both forms are available at our website: www.nevdgp.org.au Click on Aged Care Initiative under Primary Care Support. Then click on Austin Hosp. Fast Track X-Ray. Pads of the Austin Fast Track X-ray Request Form (red) are also available from Austin Radiology. Contact Melanie Rayner by telephone on 9496 2256 or email: melanie.rayner@austin.org.au

For the attention of GPs:

1.

- GPs: on the red Austin Fast Track X-ray Request form:**
- Please include your provider No. and address!

This will make it easier to ensure that final X-ray reports are sent to the GP at the correct address, and also will assist with Medicare billing.

For the attention of GPs

2.

GPs: On the red Austin Fast Track X-ray Request form

- **Please state clearly what X-ray result you can manage yourself back at the aged care home**

This will help the ED consultant to make a more rapid and appropriate assessment of suitability for the resident to return to the aged care home. For example:

- a patient with significantly reduced ability to self care due to fractured ribs may be easily managed in a high care facility, but may not be able to be managed at a low care facility
- if a chest X-ray shows pneumonia, the GP may be prepared to manage this at the facility, as the GP will have assessed how unwell the resident is and will also know what level of intervention the resident and family prefer.

3.

GPs: Eligibility for Austin Fast Track X-ray

- **Only residents of aged care homes are eligible**
- **Patients in Supported Residential Services (SRSs) are not eligible for this service at this time.**

We appreciate the support and co-operation of aged care home staff and GPs in implementing these changes. As Austin Health is offering the Fast Track X-ray service on a trial basis, it is really important that we get the process working as smoothly as possible.

Please contact me or Clare Chiminello at the Division on 9496 4333 if you have any queries.

Kind regards

**Dr Alison Sands
NEVDGP Aged Care GP Panels Initiative
Project Coordination Team**

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