



Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Central Intake

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

P: 807-684-7103

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August 16th, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Wait times for specialist consultation and procedures continue to rise with the continuing high demand on our health care system. The implementation of the GI Primary Care Pathway Program has been developed to provide clinical support tools to primary care practitioners and their patients to help guide management of symptoms within the community.

The TBRHSC GI and Endoscopy Central Intake Team, gastroenterologists and general surgeons have collaborated with Alberta Health Services-GI Central Access and Triage to develop a GI Primary Care Pathways program within Thunder Bay and its surrounding areas.

Seven GI primary care pathways have been adapted from the Alberta Health Services program and will be implemented immediately by the TBRHSC Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Central Intake team. The seven pathways include:

- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- Dyspepsia
- Chronic Constipation
- Chronic Diarrhea
- IBS
- Helicobacter Pylori
- Chronic Abdominal Pain

Referrals for these indications will continue to be triaged by the Nurse Practitioners at central intake. If they meet criteria for the pathway the referral will then be sent back to the PCP with the clinical tools and algorithm attached. The referral will be closed at that time. If the patient has an inadequate response to management then a new referral can be made with details of the completed pathway.

The GI and Endoscopy Central Intake team will also be reaching out to primary care to provide in person education and discussion sessions. This will allow face to face interactive discussions regarding the central intake process, as well as the new primary care pathway program.

We thank you for your continuing support and feedback. We hope this program will provide increased support to PCPs, better symptom management to patients, decrease ED visits, and assist in decreasing the backlog in referrals for common GI symptoms that can be managed within our community.

If you are interested in setting up an education/discussion session please send us an email to Jenna.Fratpietro@tbh.net or Brea.Manznyk@tbh.net

Sincerely,

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