

# Primary Options Programme Northland

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## **December 2013**

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## **Primary Options coordination over the Christmas holiday period**

The Primary Options team will be on leave from the close of business on the 23rd of December returning on the 6th of January. Coordination for external services will not be available over this time. Any treatment that is able to be carried out in the practice should continue as per Primary Options protocols available online at [http://www.manaiaapho.co.nz/Primary\\_Options](http://www.manaiaapho.co.nz/Primary_Options). Referrals will be looked at on our return.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

## **Manual**

Our manual has been updated to include all new pathways and uploaded to our website. To ensure you are accessing up to date information please refer to it here:

[http://manaiaapho.co.nz/Primary\\_Options](http://manaiaapho.co.nz/Primary_Options).

## **Pamidronate Pathway – New Release!**

We have recently released a pathway in which Pamidronate infusions may be administered in primary care. This pathway is available to practices in the mid and far North where patients would otherwise be admitted to hospital for Pamidronate infusions. Patients may enter the pathway either for pain management or for the prevention of skeletal events. Prior to receiving their first infusion patients will need to have had a dental check and have been referred by an oncologist, haematologist or palliative care consultant. Please refer to the Primary Options website for inclusion/exclusion criteria or phone the primary options team should you have any questions or to arrange to have an infusion coordinated externally.

## **Cellulitis IV antibiotics**

Please note that the pathway indicates funding for up to 3 doses of IV antibiotics for cellulitis only. Unless prior approval for deviation from the protocol is received from the Primary Options team further doses will not be funded. Please also document whether the patient has been trialed on oral antibiotics (and if not please document what the indications for not trialing orals are). It is expected that all moderate cases of cellulitis are trialed for a minimum of 48 hours on oral antibiotics.

### **Lots of emails!**

If your practice received several email reminders about outstanding outcomes it wasn't because we have developed a penchant for nagging, but more a case of an IT tech in Auckland testing the system without first disabling the send function. Please accept our apologies if you were at the receiving end of these emails.

### **MPSO funded drugs**

Please note that Primary Options does NOT fund MPSO drugs – these are already funded. This includes bags of saline – please check to see if the consumables that you are claiming for are not already funded to avoid double dipping.

### **Funding for IV antibiotics**

The Community Acquired Pneumonia and Pyelonephritis pathways involve the use of IV Gentamicin and IV Augmentin which are not generally available in practices. Primary Options Programme Northland will fund several ampoules of these per practice. Please contact us should you like to arrange for us to fund an initial supply for your practice.

### **Farewell to our Clinical Director**

Our Clinical Director, Kyle Eggleton is leaving us to spend more time with his family, return to clinical work and to further his work in research. While we wish him well, we will miss the hard work, support and encouragement he gave to the Primary Options team.



## **Wishing You All a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!**

Our website has been updated and we ask that you please **THROW OUT ALL OLD POPN MANUALS** and only refer to the website **[www.manaiapho.co.nz/Primary\\_Options](http://www.manaiapho.co.nz/Primary_Options)** as this will have all of the up to date information regarding Primary Options.

Please contact us if you have any queries regarding Primary Options

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