Clinical Assistant Delegation Framework

Please ensure you have read the Clinical Assistant Delegation Policy – this outlines the responsibilities of the clinical assistant, the clinician and the employer in relation to using the below delegation protocol

NOTE: Improving the ability of the clinical assistant to help with test results is reliant on clinical documentation at the point of ordering tests.

The clinical assistant can only file normal results if there is a clear comment in the notes 'no follow up of normal results required'

If results are normal but this comment has not been made, the result will be annotated normal and left in the inbox for review by clinician.

If the clinical assistant is being delegated to file normal results as above, any required safety netting and instructions around review or follow up must be done at the time of the consultation and should be documented in the clinical record.

Patient notification of results: Practices will need to provide the clinical assistant with their results notification policy/protocol and ensure the clinical assistant is aware of how and when the practice wants them to notify patients of results.

If at any point the clinical assistant is unsure of whether to file a result, or next step to take, the result should be left in the inbox for the clinician to review.

Where the delegation framework states that a result needs to be escalated to the duty clinician, the expectation is that the duty clinician is notified as soon as practicable eg between patients, and that this handover of the result is documented by the clinical assistant. Once the clinician has been notified, they assume responsibility for actioning the abnormal result from that point onward.

All results actioned, annotated or filed by clinical assistant should have Cl Assist at end of comment field to ensure it is clear who has done this. Can be set as keyword. Not to use initials or CA as difficult to track later.

This delegation framework applies to people aged 18 years or older. It cannot be used for children and young adolescents.		
Result Type		
Cervical Screening	Action:	
'No abnormal cells repeat	Annotate in comments normal, rpt in 3 years.	
in three years'	Update recall	
	Notify patient as per practice policy	

	If clinical notes document no follow up of normal result required, can file
Cervical Screening 'No abnormal cells, repeat in 12 months due to previous abnormality'	Action: Annotate in comments normal, rpt 1 year. Update recall Notify patient as per practice policy Clinician to review result prior to filing OR forward to nominated practice clinician if practice policy in place as needs consideration of HPV testing
Cervical Screening Abnormality or any result not fitting above two categories	Action: • Annotate in comments with result, clinician to review result OR forward to nominated person in practice to review
Chlamydia/gonorrhoea swab Both negative	 Action: Notify patient as per practice protocol If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file Do not state that the test was an STI check if texting the patient
Chlamydia/gonorrhoea swab Gonorrhoea positive	 Action: Discuss with duty/acute nurse – if they are able to treat with standing order, make note in daily record 'positive gonorrhoea test, discussed with [name] who will arrange treatment and follow up If duty/acute nurse not able to treat, annotate 'positive gonorrhoea', leave in inbox for clinician Send task to requesting clinician that notification to medical officer of health required.
Chlamydia/gonorrhoea swab Chlamydia positive	 Action: Discuss with duty/acute nurse – if they are able to treat with standing order, make note in daily record 'positive chalmydia test, discussed with [name] who will arrange treatment and follow up If duty/acute nurse not able to treat, annotate 'positive chlamydia', leave in inbox for clinician
Coeliac screen Anti TTG IgA <20 CU = negative AND IgA within normal range (0.8-4.0)	 Action: Annotate comment with 'normal coeliac screen' If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file Notify patient as per practice policy
Coeliac screen	Action:

Anti TTG IgA <20 CU	Annotate IgA low/elevated		
AND	Requesting clinician to review result		
IgA outside normal range			
<0.8 or >4.0			
Coeliac screen	Action:		
Anti TTG IgA 20-100 CU =	Annotate 'weak positive'		
weak positive	Requesting clinician to review result		
Coeliac screen	Action:		
Anti TTG IgA > 100 =	Annotate 'positive'		
positive	Requesting clinician to review result		
Covid-19 Swab	Action:		
Negative	 Notify patient via text message as per practice policy or following wording 'Your Covid-19 test result was negative. This means it did NOT show Covid-19. Please remain at home until your symptoms have been gone for 2 days. If you feel worse, please contact the medical centre or healthline 0800 358 5453' Negative results for Covid-19 can be filed by clinical assistant after patient notification sent 		
Covid-19 Swab	Action:		
Positive	Notify senior practice leadership immediately – practice manager, nurse team lead and any GP available		

Creatinine and eGFR

Any egfr drop of >10ml/min since most recent prior result, do not file, needs clinician review

Acute drop to egfr <60, follow escalation protocol and notify clinician of acute renal impairment.

Creatinine normal range varies depending on age. eGFR is calculated from the creatinine, age of patient and sex of patient.

Acute renal impairment – rapid (eg hours to days) drop in renal function causing elevated creatinine and reduced eGFR. Out of scope for this protocol

Chronic renal impairment - can be stable or progressive

Stable – egfr change <5ml/min over past 12 months

Progressive egfr decreased by >5ml/min over past 12 months

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Creatinine and eGFR	Action:	
egfr >90ml/min	Annotate with Cr [xx], egfr [xx], normal	
Creatinine and eGFR	Annotate 'Cr [xx], egfr [xx], new renal impairment'	
eGFR 60 – 89	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing	
AND		
Prior result egfr >90		

Creatinine and eGFR	Annotate with Cr [xx], egfr [xx] stable		
eGFR 60 – 89	 Check if has a classification of chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage 2 – if not, add 		
AND	 Request CVRA bloods, urine ACR and BP check if not done in past 12 months 		
Prior egfr within 5ml/min	Set task to self to ensure above happens, inform requesting clinician when it is available? review needed		
of current result	 Requesting clinician to review result – not for clinical assistant filing as chronic renal impairment is often 		
	associated with other medical conditions that require consideration.		
Creatinine and eGFR	Action:		
eGFR 60 – 89	Annotate with Cr [xx] and egfr [xx], progressive impairment		
AND	 Task requesting clinician to inform of deterioration, ask if would like BP, CVRA bloods and Urine ACR if not 		
current result >5ml/min	done in past 12 months (purpose of task is safety net in case this is acute or unexpected deterioration)		
reduction compared to	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing		
previous egfr result			
Creatinine and eGFR	Action:		
eGFR 45 – 59	 if no ACR available, and egfr 45-59, action as per this section, but also arrange urine test as may need 		
AND	closer monitoring depending on result.		
Prior egfr ≥ 60	 Clinical assistant to task self to follow up that urine test gets done. 		
AND	o If not able to contact patient, task clinician to inform them 'Chronic kidney disease on bloods, not		
Urine ACR ≤3.5 or PCR	able to risk stratify as no urine acr result'		
<15	Annotate 'cr [xx] gfr [xx] ckd – now stage 3a,'		
	Update classification with comment 'stage 3a CKD [date]'		
	 Send task to clinician 'CKD stage 3a – please review medications' 		
	Add recall for creatinine every three months and CVRA/HbA1c bloods and urine albumin:creatinine ratio		
	(ACR) and MSU for haematuria annually		
	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing		
Creatinine and eGFR	Action:		
eGFR 45 – 59	Annotate 'cr [xx] gfr [xx]		
AND	Ensure has classification of CKD stage 3a		
ACR 3.6-29 or PCR 15-49	 Clinical assessment recommended 6 monthly – if patient not seen for >6months, task clinician asking if 		
	they would like appointment arranged.		
	 Update recalls to: 6montly urine ACR, 6monthly Creatinine, Na/K (electrolytes), urea, CBC, calcium, 		
	phosphate and annual MSU for haematuria. Hba1c recall annually if no diabetes as per diabetes plan if		
	>50.		

	If any of the above recalls overdue, request those tests and notify patient as per practice protocol		
	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing		
Creatinine and eGFR	Action:		
eGFR 30 – 44	Annotate 'cr [xx] gfr [xx]		
	Ensure has classification of CKD stage 3b		
	 Clinical assessment recommended 6 monthly – if patient not seen for >6months, task clinician asking if they would like appointment arranged 		
	 Update recalls to: 6montly urine ACR, 6monthly Creatinine, Na/K (electrolytes), urea, CBC, calcium, phosphate and annual MSU for haematuria. Hba1c recall annually if no diabetes as per diabetes plan if >50. 		
	 Task clinician to check if primary care doing these, or if patient is under renal clinic. If under renal clinic leave recalls in place but annotate that under renal clinic 		
	 If any of the above recalls overdue, request those tests and notify patient as per practice protocol Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing 		
Creatinine and eGFR	A ation.		
eGFR 15-29 AND within	Action:		
5ml/min of previous eGFR	 If not seen in past 4 months by primary care or renal clinic (check inbox for renal clinic outpatient letter), task clinician to see if needs review appointment booked 		
Simy min or previous eark	Ensure classification of CKD stage 4 present		
	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing		
	Requesting chilician to review result, not for chilical assistant ming		
	Note: this group should have regular monitoring of bloods/ urine and in place, however the parameters of this are variable depending on clinical scenario and therefore out of scope of this protocol. Needs decision by requesting clinician.		
CVRA:	Action:		
Hba1c, Lipids and	Annotate lipid result with "ratio [value], LDL [value] CVRA [value]%"		
Creatinine will come	Follow instructions in Creatinine and eGFR for the creatinine result		
through together in	Follow instructions in the Glycated Haemoglobin section for Hba1c		
results	• Check notes for a BP in past 3 months – if not present organise BP check – could be in practice (RN, PCPA)		
	or offsite eg pharmacy and result communicated to clinical assistant and entered into notes		
	Check practice protocol for who actions CVRA results – follow protocol regarding who is notified		
	If no clear protocol then remains in inbox for requesting clinician		

	Calculating CVRA results depends on a number of clinical factors and requires assessment and interpretation which should be undertaken by someone with clinical training. Therefore it is not included in the clinical assistant role.	
Faecal Helicobacter Ag	Action:	
Negative	Annotate 'negative'	
	If clinical notes document no follow up of normal result required, can file	
	Notify patient as per practice policy	
Faecal Helicobacter Ag	Action:	
Positive	Annotate 'positive'	
	Requesting clinician to review result, not for clinical assistant filing	

Faecal PCR: Will include result for campylobacter, salmonella, shigella, yersinia, giardia, cryptosporidium and shiga toxin producing e. coli Categories for urgent/non urgent notification below are from the Regional Public Health website, covering the greater Wellington region Notifiable diseases | RPH

<u>listofdiseases-urgent-nonurgentnotification.pdf (rph.org.nz)</u> health-practitioner-notice-of-notifiable-disease.pdf (rph.org.nz)

Critical Limits – escalate to duty clinician and document who it was discussed with

Faecal PCR:	Action:	
Negative result for all	 If clinical notes document no follow up of normal result required, can file 	
categories		
Faecal PCR: positive for Shiga toxin	 Action: Escalate to duty clinician for clinical decision about treatment/review and as needs urgent notification to 	
producing e.coli or shigella	regional public health or on-call medical officer of health	
	 Make note in clinical record 'positive [} test, discussed with [name] who will arrange notification, treatment and follow up' 	
Faecal PCR:	Action:	
positive for	 Clinical Assistant to download notification form from regional public health and complete and fax. 	
campylobacter,	 Requesting clinician to review result to decide regarding treatment, follow up and whether requires urgent 	
cryptosporidium, giardia,	notification as per <u>Acute gastroenteritis</u> criteria	
salmonella, yersinia		
	Acute gastroenteritis is notifiable urgently if linked to common source, or if patient is food worker, caregiver or	
	chemical/bacterial or toxic food poisoning. Clinician to make this decision when views inbox record.	
Full blood count		

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Hb g/L	80	200
HCT (female)		0.56
HCT (male)		0.6
Platelets x10^9	80	1000
(pregnant)		
Platelets x10 ⁹	20	1000
Neutrophils	0.5	15
x10^9		

NB: neutrophils in this protocol set at lower limit than SCL to increase sensitivity of escalation protocol in scenario of sepsis/infection. Note no abnormal FBC will be filed by clinical assistant, and so abnormal FBC will still be seen by requesting clinician, but a more sensitive trigger for escalation is a safety net in scenario of busy clinic/part time staff where clinical assistant may have seen result before requesting clinician.

Full blood count	Action:		
Parameters all normal	 If clinical notes document no follow up of normal result required, can file 		
	If no instructions in clinical notes, annotate as 'normal' but do not file.		
Full blood count	Action:		
Parameters out of normal	Annotate comment field with name and value of the abnormal parameter		
range but NOT critical (see	e.g. hb 102 or platelets 135		
above table)	Requesting clinician to review result		
Full blood count	Action:		
Parameter breaches a	Escalate to duty clinician for urgent review		
critical limit	Make note in clinical record 'full blood count with abnormal result outside critical limit, discussed with		
	[name] at [time]'		
Glycated haemoglobin	Action:		
HbA1c <40	Annotate comment field [value of hba1c]		
	Check daily record for filing/follow up instructions. If no clear plan, leave in inbox		
	If part of CVRA (came in batch with lipids and renal function, leave in inbox as per CVRA section)		
	Check classifications for gestational diabetes mellitus: if present requires recall for annual hba1c.		
	Action:		

	If has classification gestational diabetes mellitus but no recall: add annual hba1c recall		
	 Has recall for annual hba1c -> reset recall for 12months from date of current hba1c result. 		
Glycated haemoglobin	Action:		
HbA1c 40-49	Annotate comment field [value of hba1c]		
	Add classification 'pre-diabetes' if not present		
	 Add recall for annual HbA1c. If already present, reset this for 12 months from date of current hba1c result 		
	If part of CVRA (came in batch with lipids and renal function, leave in inbox as per CVRA section)		
Glycated haemoglobin	Action:		
Hba1c >50	Annotate [value of hba1c]		
(in patient with no	 Check if CVRA and urine ACR have been done in the past 12 months. If not, arrange. 		
diagnosis diabetes)	Clinician to review result and make follow up plan		
Glycated Haemoglobin	Action:		
Hba1c >50 and	Annotate [value of hba1c]		
classification Type I	 Check that CVRA and urine ACR have been done in the past 12 months. If not, arrange. 		
Diabetes Mellitus	Clinician to review result prior to filing		
Glycated Haemoglobin	Action:		
Hba1c >50 and	Annotate [value]		
classification Type II	 Check that CVRA and urine ACR have been done in the past 12 months. If not, arrange. 		
Diabetes Mellitus	 Requesting clinician to review result prior to filing OR forward to nominated practice clinician if practice 		
	policy in place.		
	tion tests – these must be escalated to the duty clinician		
Bilirubin > 400umol/L, ALT			
Liver function tests	Action:		
All parameters normal	If clinical notes document no follow up of normal result required, can file		
	If no instructions in clinical notes, annotate as 'normal' but do not file.		
Liver function tests	Action:		
Abnormal value below	 Annotate comment field with name and value of the abnormal parameter, eg ALT 135 or GGT 74 		
critical limit	Requesting clinician to review result		
	Potential after pilot period to develop wording around filing of stable values – wait for pilot to and discuss		
Mammogram	Action:		
Normal	Reset recall for two years		
AND	Annotate in comments normal, next due [mth/yr], recall set for []		
	Requesting clinician to review result prior to filing (safety net)		

No classification or recall	
for high risk family history	
or annual mammogram	
Mammogram	If present then annotate result 'normal, high risk history/annual mammogram recall'
Normal	Action:
AND	Requesting clinician to review result and process for ordering next mammogram
Has classification or recall	
for high risk family history	
or annual mammogram	
Mammogram	Action:
Abnormality detected or	Requesting clinician to review
further investigation	
required	
Sodium (Na) and	Action:
Potassium (K)	Annotate 'normal'
Na 135-145	If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file
AND	
K 3.6-5.2	
Sodium (Na) and	Action:
Potassium (K)	Annotate Sodium [high/low] or Potassium high
Na 126-135 or 135-154	Requesting clinician to review – leave in inbox
OR	
K 5.2-5.5	
Sodium and Potassium	Action:
Critical limits	Escalate to duty clinician for review
Na ≤125 or ≥ 155	Record 'electrolytes outside critical limit, discussed with [name] at [time]'
K ≤3.5 or ≥5.6	
Renal function	
- See Sodium and	
Potassium AND	
Creatinine/eGFR sections	
Trichomomas PCR	Action:
Negative	Notify patient as per practice protocol
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	If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file
	 If no instructions in notes, annotate 'trichomomas negative' and requesting clinician to review
	 Do not include that the test was an STI check if texting the patient
Trichomomas PCR	Action:
Positive	 Discuss with duty/acute nurse – if they are able to treat with standing order, make note in daily record
	'positive trichomomas test, discussed with [name] who will arrange treatment and follow up
	 If duty/acute nurse not able to treat, annotate 'positive trichomomas', leave in inbox for clinician
Thyroid function tests	Action:
TSH 0.4-3.8	If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file
Non pregnant	 If no instructions in clinical notes, annotate 'normal TSH' and requesting clinician to review
	• If patient is pregnant (check if mentioned in recent clinical record, or if result is batched with first antenatal
	bloods), requesting clinician to review result before filing
Thyroid function tests	Action:
TSH <0.4 or >3.8	Annotate 'TSH [value]
	Requesting clinician to review result
Uric Acid	Action:
Female: 0.15-0.36	Annotate [value], normal
Male: 0.20-0.36	If clinical notes state no follow up of normal results required, can file
	NB: top of lab normal for men is 0.42, however as gout target is 0.36 have set this as the trigger for this protocol
Uric acid	Action:
> 0.36	Annotate [value], elevated
	Requesting clinician to review before filing

Clinical Documents

Referral Received or	Letter from department acknowledging the referral, sometimes with an accompanying comment regarding
Waitlist letter	expected time to appointment
	Action:
	Annotate either 'referral received [department] OR '[department] accepted, waitlist [xx], task set

	• (This point to be discussed with practice, decision around this point will be practice/clinician dependent) Set task to requesting clinician to follow up referral 4 weeks after expected waitlist time ie. 'follow up ortho referral, expected to be seen in [x] timeframe' and date task is due is 4 weeks after this time
	Requesting clinician to review before filing in case referral was urgent or needs escalating etc.
Clinic or specialist letters	Letters from a health care professional outside the practice
	Action:
	Read letter Adoptify any diagraps and add to placeifications.
	Identify any diagnoses made and add to classifications
	Identify if any medication changes – add comment to annotation
	 Identify any tests the practice has been asked to follow up – send a task to the requesting clinician with the name of the tests, and the timeframe they have been requested in.
	 Leave this task as due immediately so it is seen by clinician, however they can then alter the timing to suit when they wish to action.
	 Identify if the practice has been asked to see the patient and in what time frame, book this appointment with the appropriate clinician
	 Annotate '[speciality] letter – actioned as per clinical record' or '[speciality] letter – meds update needed, otherwise actioned as per clinical record' – document any actions made from the above list in clinical record – eg classification updated, test recall added, follow up booked
	A clinical assistant (unregistered healthcare workforce) can not update medications in the medication list.
	 Requesting clinician to review before filing, responsibility lies with the requesting clinician to ensure that all necessary tasks and actions have been generated.
Discharge letter	Summary of care or admission done at the time the patient is discharged – could be from after hours, emergency department or hospital speciality Action:
	Read letter
	Identify any diagnoses made and add to classifications
	Identify if any medication changes – add comment to annotation
	 Identify if any procedure done eg incision and drainage, sutures or wound dressing – these are likely to need follow up
	Identify if a surgery was done and add operation name to classifications
	Identify if vaccination eg tetanus booster was given – if so, enter into vaccination record
	 Identify any tests the practice has been asked to follow up – send a task to the requesting clinician with the name of the tests, and the timeframe they have been requested in.

- Leave this task as due immediately so it is seen by clinician, however they can then alter the timing to suit when they wish to action.
- Identify if the practice has been asked to see the patient and in what time frame, annotate in comment field and filing clinician to notify clinical assistant via task if they would like this booked.
- Annotate 'discharge [speciality/ED/afterhours] actioned as per clinical record' or 'discharge
 [speciality/ED/afterhours] meds update needed, otherwise actioned as per clinical record' document
 any actions made from the above list in clinical record eg classification updated, test recall added,
 vaccination entered, follow up booked
- A clinical assistant (unregistered healthcare workforce) can not update medications in the medication list.
- Requesting clinician to review before filing, responsibility lies with the requesting clinician to ensure that all necessary tasks and actions have been generated and to update any medication changes

References – all accessed June 2021

Health Professional Guides and Calculators (kidney.health.nz)

Type 2 Diabetes Management Guidance - New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes (nzssd.org.nz)

<u>Prediabetes - New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes (nzssd.org.nz)</u>

Guidance on Infectious Disease Management under the Health Act 1956

Kidney Health CKD Summary Guide .pdf

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Adults - Community HealthPathways 3D (Lower North Island)