



Northern
Territory
Government

Top End Health Service
NORTHERN TERRITORY HEALTH



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To: Division Surgery and Critical Care Staff

RDH Pre-operative Optimisation for Major Surgery

The RDH Department of Anaesthesia, in partnership with the RDH National Patient Blood Management Collaborative (NPBMC) Team, has introduced a screening program aimed at optimising patient health in the period leading up to their elective surgery. The screening focuses on identifying anaemia; poorly controlled chronic medical conditions such as diabetes; and smoking habits. It is anticipated that optimising patient health will minimise surgery delays and cancellations and provide patients with the best outcome from their scheduled surgery.

Performing tests at the time of *waitlisting* rather than at pre-admission for procedure will allow time for assessment and optimisation of identified issues. In order to optimise as many patients as possible we are asking that you request the following tests at the time of *waitlisting* a patient for major surgery:

- FBC
- CRP
- Blood urea and electrolytes
- Creatinine
- Hb A1C
- Iron Studies

Preoperative screening packs are available in RDH Surgical Outpatients clinics. The packs include:

- Pathology request form with pre-printed tests
- Patient letter and questionnaire
- Pre-paid envelope

An anaesthetist or NPBMC project officer will follow up the results and take appropriate action if any issues are identified.

Dr Richard Bradbury, Dr Dan Holmes, Dr Indra Kumarasena and RN Julie Domanski (Blood Transfusion Nurse) as well as myself are part of the NPBMC team. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brian Spain
CoDirector Division of Surgery & Critical Care
Director of Anaesthesia
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