

## Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Neonatology (Sick Infant)



**Queensland  
Government**

Children's Health Services

Royal Children's Hospital

**General Paediatrics**

**Consultant Clinics**

**Provision of  
named referrals for  
all patients  
referred to the RCH  
will expedite  
patient access**

### Constipation

Breast-fed babies may have infrequent bowel motions and intervals of 1-2 weeks between bowel motions are not uncommon. This does not usually represent an abnormality.

Bottle-fed babies frequently have hard stools.

Hirschsprung disease in infants and babies manifests itself by delayed or absent passage of stool

Initial work-up	Pre-referral treatment	Refer when
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History and physical examination</li> <li>• Check that formula is being made up according to instructions on the packet, ie that the parent is not packing the formula down hard into the s coop as this will result in more formula than intended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In formula feeding babies, add small amounts of water, mild laxatives such as Docusate / poloxalkol (eg. Coloxyl)</li> <li>• Prune juice/pear juice may also be helpful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed (&gt;48 hours) passage of meconium</li> <li>• Clinical signs of abdominal distension or vomiting</li> </ul>








**Clinical Advice: Tel (07) 3636 3777 and ask for Paediatric Registrar or A/H (07) 3636 9005 Emergency Department**

**Referral Form Download: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp\\_referrals.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp_referrals.asp)**

**Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department  
HealthLink Address - [qldrchld](http://qldrchld)**

**Royal Children's Hospital  
Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029**

*See final page for references, copyright, disclaimer and further contact details.*

*Pg. 1 of 2*



Provision of  
named referrals for  
all patients  
referred to the RCH  
will expedite  
patient access

## Contact us

RCH Switchboard	(07) 3636 3777
Emergency Department	
• GPs only (clinical advice)	(07) 3636 9005
• General enquiries	(07) 3636 8085
• Triage nurse	(07) 3636 7900
• ED Admission enquiries	(07) 3636 7700
Admission Enquiries	(07) 3636 8307
Admission Enquiries After Hours (via the RCH Main Switch)	(07) 3636 3777
Poisons Information Centre	131126

**Seriously Unwell Child:  
RCH Emergency Department**

**(07) 3636 9005**

## References

Clinical Advice: Tel (07) 3636 3777 and ask for Paediatric Registrar or A/H (07) 3636 9005 Emergency Department

Referral Form Download: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp\\_referrals.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp_referrals.asp)

Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department  
HealthLink Address - [qldrchld](#) Royal Children's Hospital  
Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029

## Copyright and disclaimer

Copyright 2008, Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Queensland, Australia. Adapted with permission from [Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle, WA, USA](#) and the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Victoria, Australia.

The RCH (Queensland and Victoria) and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center are not responsible in any way for application of the procedures or guidelines to patient care at your facility. They are guidelines only and your professional judgment must always prevail. Guidelines may not be reproduced without permission.

These guidelines were reviewed and developed by specialists at the RCH (Queensland) and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. They were reviewed by a working group of metropolitan general practitioners in Queensland.

Feedback or suggestions welcomed. Contact the **Centre for Healthcare Excellence**: [CHS\\_CHE@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHS_CHE@health.qld.gov.au)

**Last reviewed:** August 2011