Referral Pathway for General Practitioners
Gordonvale to Palm Cove
Cairns and Hinterland Mental Health and ATOD Services (CHMHAS)

Making a referral to: The Acute Care Team (ACT)

- **All URGENT** referrals with any **HIGH RISK** factors (e.g. harm to self and/ or others) are to be **phoned** into ACT in the first instance i.e.

  **1300 642 255**

  This is where the GP is seeking intervention/assessment/acute treatment planning/clinical advice. These referrals include patients that require an immediate response or an intervention within a few weeks

  Where the GP is then advised by the ACT Intake Officer, that their patient will require a medical review, it is essential that the GP then forward a written referral to the psychiatrist

  Alternatively, it may be deemed that a patient review is more appropriately completed by a multidisciplinary clinician rather than a psychiatrist in some cases

- **All NON URGENT** referrals with **LOW RISK** factors (including previous Option A clinic), where the GP is requiring one off advice from a psychiatrist e.g. medication, ongoing treatment planning, then the GP may **fax** i.e. **4226 3149** a written referral for all patients addressed to:
  
  e.g. Name of Psychiatrist or to Dr Alison Overland Clinical Director CHMHAS

  Generally speaking, these referrals include patients that do not have to be reviewed within a few weeks

  Please note:
  
  - All patients are **triaged** through ACT for both Urgent/High Risk and Non Urgent referrals
  
  - General Practitioners (GPs) must provide a **written referral for all patients addressed to**:
    e.g. Name of Psychiatrist or to Dr Alison Overland Clinical Director CHMHAS
  
  - Where the referral is deemed as **not appropriate**, the Intake Officer from ACT will suggest alternate referral pathways e.g. Headspace/ATAPS/Private Psychiatrists/ Allied Health/NGOs/ Sexual Health
  
  - Where appropriate the ACT Intake Officer will request a copy of the **Mental Health Care Plan (MHCP)** from the GP for clinical reasons (excluding emergency/acute situations)

For Regional Areas i.e. Innisfail/ Tully; Tablelands; Port Douglas/ Mossman please note the following:

Business Hrs: Monday - Friday 0800 - 1630 Please contact your local area for all referrals

After Hrs: Monday - Friday 1630 - 0800 and Friday - Monday 1630 - 0800 -

Please use the above referral process and contact numbers.