



Your Ref:

Our Ref:

27/09/11

## **Re: Paediatric Patients in the Emergency Department**

The experience of all patients and their families in Emergency Departments is a matter of priority for all hospitals, including the MUH. For children, it is essential that there are no unreasonable delays in accessing the Paediatric team and in transferring the child to a hospital bed in St. Anne's ward if admission is necessary. Please ensure that you adhere to the following practices:

1. All paediatric patients who arrive in the ED with GP letters of referral should be reviewed directly by the Paediatric team.
2. All paediatric patients accepted by the Paediatric Registrar to ED should be reviewed directly by the Paediatric NCHD.
3. At times of particular congestion in the ED, you may be asked to review patients directly by the Shift Leader. Please oblige by responding to such requests courteously and efficiently.
4. Ensure that children stay no longer than is absolutely necessary in the ED. Once you have made a clinical decision to admit the patient, arrange for immediate transfer to St. Anne's ward if a bed is available. There is no need for a patient to stay in ED 'waiting for results' once it has already been decided that admission is necessary.

The NCHD staff throughout the hospital have shown great commitment and professionalism in supporting the ED. I would like to acknowledge this support and encourage you to ensure that it continues throughout your time in the MUH

Dr Colm Henry  
Clinical Director  
Mercy University Hospital