

14 October 2021

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Re: Official Information Act request – Treatment of Transvaginal Ultrasound Referrals

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 1 October 2021 requesting the following information:

To clarify the recent OIA request we sent - we used the term 'menopausal 50 year old' to mean "post menopause" if there is any doubt. Thank you for your understanding.

Original OIA below with "Menopausal" replaced by "Post Menopause"
To Whom it May Concern,

We would like to make an official information act request to understand better how referrals for trans vaginal ultrasounds are treated.

We would be grateful if a person responsible for triaging ultrasound referrals would be so kind as to tell us what priority (urgent, semi urgent, routine, declined) and time frame (in days or weeks) your clinicians would put on the following twelve referral scenarios for a trans vaginal ultrasound from a community GP (under a Covid Level 1 scenario)?

Premenopausal 36 year old women with new onset bowel habit changes and bloating of

- A. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15
- B. 3 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15 (stable)
- C. 3 months duration and new onset urinary frequency, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 18 (previously 15)
- D. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 37
- E. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205
- F. 1 months duration, mass on pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205

Post-Menopause 50 year old woman presenting with new bowel habit changes and bloating of

- A. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15
- B. 3 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15 (stable)
- C. 3 months duration and new onset urinary frequency, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 18 (previously 15)
- D. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 37
- E. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205

F. 1 months duration, mass on pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205

Thank you very much for your time.

Response

Transvaginal Ultrasound Referral Indication	Triage Category
Premenopausal 36 year old women with new onset bowel habit changes and bloating of:	
A. 1 month duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history – with CA-125 of 15	E (within 6 weeks)
B. 3 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15 (stable)	E (within 6 weeks)
C. 3 months duration and new onset urinary frequency, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 18 (previously 15)	E (within 6 weeks)
D. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 37	S (within 4 weeks)
E. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205	C (within 1 week)
F. 1 months duration, mass on pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205	C (within 1 week)
Post-Menopause 50 year old woman presenting with new bowel habit changes and bloating of:	
A. 1 month duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history – with CA-125 of 15	E (within 6 weeks)
B. 3 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 15 (stable)	E (within 6 weeks)
C. 3 months duration and new onset urinary frequency, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 18 (previously 15)	S (within 4 weeks)
D. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 37	D (within 2 weeks)
E. 1 months duration, normal pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205	C (within 1 week)
F. 1 months duration, mass on pelvic exam, negative family history - with CA-125 of 205	C (within 1 week)
Note:	
Very rarely do referrals give this much information in terms of family history, duration of symptoms and Ca 125 result. The Ca 125 may or may not have been done if a patient presents with bloating. If it is done, referral will typically state Ca 125 normal or Ca 125 elevated. Levels are not normally advised.	

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ailsa Claire".

Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive