

External Referrals - Patients Eligible for Publicly Funded Health and Disability Services

Please ensure patients who are been referred to our hospital services are Eligible. If they are not eligible please clearly identify this on the referral letter and inform the patient there will be charges for their visit and any subsequent services unless Accident (ACC) related.

The Ministry of Health provides publicly-funded (i.e. free or subsidised) healthcare for New Zealand Residents or Citizens and other eligible people. It is not an entitlement to receive any particular service.

Checking the eligibility of patients is the **responsibility of ALL health providers** who administer Government subsidised health and disability services.

The **Health and Disability Eligibility Direction** was updated in April 2011 and sets out the eligibility criteria for publicly funded health and disability services in New Zealand. Only people who meet the eligibility criteria defined in the Eligibility Direction can receive publicly funded (i.e. free or subsidised) health and disability services. A person should be asked to show proof that they meet the eligibility criteria. It is therefore the responsibility of Counties Manukau DHB to ensure that all patients accepted for public funded specialist treatment are eligible for treatment.

When a patient is referred to CMDHB as an Outpatient, please can you ensure that a copy of relevant documents is attached to the referral that will indicate if the patient is eligible for treatment?

Documents and required information:

- **NZ Citizen, including Cook Island, Niue & Tokelau nationals**
Copy of birth certificate or front (photo) page of NZ passport or NZ certificate of citizenship.
- **Citizen of Australia or United Kingdom visiting NZ (limited services)**
Copy of front page (photo) page of passport and any visas
- **Australian Citizen living permanently in NZ**
Copy of front (photo) page of passport and copy of a document demonstrating that you permanently reside in NZ for at least 2 years. E.g. telephone or power bill, land/water rate, letter from employer.
- **New Zealand Permanent Resident**
Copy of front (photo) page of passport and Resident Visa or Permanent Resident Visa.
- **Holder of a Work Visa that allows a stay of 2 consecutive years or more**
Copy of front (photo) page of passport and current work visa. *Please note:* If the current visa is issued for less than 2 years then we also require a copy of all previous (renewed) visas as well.
- **Refugee, Refugee Claimant or Appellant**
Copy of Refugee travel document issued under the Passport Act 1992 **OR** Certificate of Identity (COI) **AND** Proof of refugee status/application such as a recent letter from Immigration NZ confirming that the person has been recognised as a refugee **OR** has a current application for refugee status **OR** a recent letter from the Immigration and Protection Tribunal confirming the person is appealing against a refusal of refugee status. *Please note:* Letters must be dated within the last 6 months.
- **Children**
All children born after the 1st of January 2006 no longer automatically become New Zealand citizens. A copy of their birth certificate or passport **OR** alternatively their parents/guardians birth certificate or passport are required to determine eligibility.
- **None of the above?**
Copy of front (photo) page of passport and copy of all NZ visas.

If you require further information, please email eligibility@moh.govt.nz or go to the website www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility