

RAPID ACCESS CLINIC IN THE GYNAECOLOGY ASSESSMENT UNIT

Full Guideline

Gynae/10:23/R1

All appointments must be made via a dedicated telephone number 01332 786525

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1. Introduction

The Gynecology Rapid Access Clinic is a clinician-delivered, one-stop service to assess and treat women presenting with acute gynaecological conditions.

2. Purpose and Outcomes

To provide guidance for GPs and other doctors on the criteria for referral and how to make a referral to the gynecology rapid access clinic.

3. Abbreviations

A&E	-	Accident and Emergency Department
CASH	-	Contraception and Sexual Health
EPAU	-	Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit
GAU	-	Gynaecology Assessment Unit
GDCU	-	Gynaecology Day Case Unit
GOPD	-	Gynaecology Outpatient Department
PID	-	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
PMB	-	Post Menopausal Bleeding
RAC	-	Rapid Access Clinic

4. Advantages

- More timely referral access for GPs and other referrers
- Shorter patient pathways
- Relieve pressure on A&E
- Reduced admissions to Ward 209
- Lead to improvements in patient experience and safety.

5. Clinic Opening Times

The clinic will run Monday to Friday between 09:30 and 12:00 hours in the Gynaecology Assessment Unit (GAU) where a clinician will diagnose and arrange treatment in one visit.

Five 30 minute appointments will be allocated initially at the following times:-

09:30 / 10:00 / 10:30 / 11:00 / 11:30

The clinic code is **GAURA**

6. Making an Appointment

All appointments must be made via a dedicated telephone number 01332 786525

When GAU is open, patients will be booked directly into the clinic by the GAU Nurse Practitioner. Appointments will be offered within 48 hours of referral if slots are available. Overnight when GAU is closed, the phone and appointment diary will be taken by the nurse in charge of Ward 209.

Gynaecology doctors taking calls overnight must take the patient's name, date of birth and contact telephone number and pass these on to the GAU nurses the following morning in order that they can contact the patient and arrange an appointment when there is an available slot. Please **DO NOT** tell the patient to just turn up to GAU the following day.

7. Referral Criteria

General practitioners, A&E medical staff & other doctors within the hospital, community gynaecologists and CASH doctors will be able to contact GAU on the number above to book patients into the Rapid Access Clinic if the patient has one of the following conditions:-

- Acute lower abdominal pain thought to be of gynaecological origin
- Suspected post-gynaecological surgery complications (\leq 28 days post-op)
- Suspected pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- Suspected ovarian cyst accident
- Acute severe menorrhagia
- Suspected Bartholin's/vulval abscess
- Accidental genital tract trauma

If the nurse is uncertain as to whether the patient is suitable to be seen in the Rapid Access Clinic, she may ask the referrer to contact the 2nd on-call SpR.

8. Exclusions Criteria

- Severely ill patients or those with unstable cardio-respiratory observations (e.g. shock due to haemorrhage, sepsis) – these patients should be referred immediately to A&E.
- Suspected miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy will be dealt with via established Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) pathway.
- Post-menopausal bleeding should be referred by the established 2 week wait pathway
- Other symptoms suspicious of malignancy should be referred via the 2 week wait pathway

- Cases of alleged rape will be dealt with via the forensic gynaecology services.

9. Location

The Gynecology Rapid Access Clinic is located within the Gynaecology Assessment Unit at Entrance 20 of the Maternity and Gynaecology Block, Royal Derby Hospital.

10. Medical Cover

All Rapid Access Clinic sessions will have a consultant/associate specialist/ registrar rostered to be present. When the regular doctor is on leave, backfill cover will be provided by the on-call team.

It is expected that the consultant/associate specialist/ registrar present in Rapid Access Clinic will also see emergency patients presenting to GAU depending on workload.

Patients seen in the Rapid Access Clinic will be placed under the care of the consultant gynaecologist on call for the week (e.g. if outpatient follow up or inpatient management is required).

11. Nursing / HCA Cover

An HCA from GAU/Gynae OPD will be rostered to be present in the Rapid Access Clinic to assist the doctor, act as chaperone, take blood, etc.

12. Access to Ultrasound Scans

Access to ultrasound will be provided either by - by dedicated scan slots within GAU/main ultrasound department.

13. Communication with Primary Referrer

When a patient has been seen in the Rapid Access Clinic, a letter will be dictated by the RAC doctor informing the original referrer of the diagnosis, investigation findings, any medications prescribed, treatment plan, and any follow up arrangements.

N.B it is the clinical responsibility of the doctor who sees the patient in the Rapid Access Clinic to chase the result of any investigations ordered (e.g. blood tests, swabs, ultrasound scans, etc) unless they effectively hand that over to a colleague.

14. Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

The following criteria will be subject to regular audit:-

- Duration from Referral to RAC appointment
- Condition satisfies inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Outcome following RAC (e.g. discharge to primary referrer, emergency admissions to Ward 209 from RAC, elective admission to Ward 209/GDCU for further treatment, outpatient follow up, referral to another specialty)

Documentation Control

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	2	November 2019	Mr J Allsop Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist	Review
	3	August 2023	Mr J Allsop - Consultant Gynaecologist Miss A Tirlapur - O&G Consultant	Triannual review
To be read in conjunction with Associated local guidelines: Fetal Tissue/Disposal (F4) / Early Pregnancy Losses (M1) / Anti D Administration (A2)				
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