

## **Notes regarding SCI Gateway referrals**

Dear Primary Care colleagues,

We have experienced a substantial increase in SCI Gateway referrals into Gynaecology.

A good proportion of these are not new referrals but are requests for information or sharing additional details. There are often better, and easier, routes for doing this.

There are some common themes, and you may find the information and advice below helpful.

- To communicate with a specific consultant about a patient that is already known to them, including questions about the patient being on any surgical waiting list, please email them or their secretary directly.
- If you would like to know more about current waiting times, these can be found on the relevant dashboards on the NHS Internet site:  
[NHS Lothian Inpatient Waiting Times – Your Rights & Privacy](#)  
[NHS Lothian Outpatient Waiting Times – Your Rights & Privacy](#)
- To find out if, or where, your patient is on any outpatient waiting list, please email the appointments office at [loth.wbhgynaepointments@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.wbhgynaepointments@nhs.scot)
- If, after assessment, you find clinical reasons why a referral may need to be expedited due to new acute symptoms, please clearly state these in a new Sci Gateway Referral and alter the priority of the referral.
- There is no need to send additional referrals to attach blood or radiology results – we are able to find this information on Trak.
- All Gynaecology referrals (except Colposcopy) are triaged by the same team. Therefore, it isn't necessary to send additional referrals for a different service within gynaecology.
- Please do not refer a patient simultaneously to Chalmers and Gynaecology at RIE/SJH for the same issue. This causes duplication of workload and an unnecessary increase in waiting lists. The services have separate waiting lists and a duplication is not always noticed.
- If you are advising about change of address, please email the appointments office at [loth.wbhgynaepointments@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.wbhgynaepointments@nhs.scot)

Many thanks for your cooperation!

The Gynaecology Triage Team