



1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process to improve timely access to appropriate investigation and management for infants with suspected Developmental Dysplasia (DDH)/Congenital Dislocation (CDH) of the Hip.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by West Coast General Practitioners and all staff throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) Grey Base Hospital Radiology Department.

3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this Procedure:

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

All WCDHB Staff Members are required to abide by the requirements of this Procedure

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires no specific resources.


6. Process

1.00 Babies At Risk Of DDH Regardless Of Examination Findings

- 1.01 Babies with any of the following risk factors should be referred as soon as possible to the Radiology Department at Grey Base Hospital for a hip ultrasound at 6-8 weeks:
- i. Breech delivery or presentation
 - ii. Strong family history of DDH
 - iii. Other major congenital abnormalities
 - iv. Oligohydramnios
- 1.02 Referrals for radiographic imaging for these at-risk babies may be made by any General Practitioner or Midwife.

2.00 All Other Babies Where There Is A Concern Regarding Possible DDH

- 2.01 Infants with suspicion of DDH require a hip ultrasound if they are under 4 months old, and hip X-ray if they are over 4 months old. A First Specialist Assessment (FSA) for these infants before the appropriate investigation is ordered is wasteful of FSA resource, and introduces an unnecessary delay for the patient and their family/whanau.
- 2.02 All infants with suspected DDH are to be reviewed by a General Practitioner.
- 2.03 If the General Practitioner has a suspicion of DDH, they are to refer the infant to the Radiology Department at Grey Base Hospital, where an ultrasound or hip X-ray will be performed, depending on age.

	General Practitioner Access To Radiographic Imaging For Infants With Suspected Developmental Dysplasia (DDH)/ Congenital Dislocation (CDH)/ Of The Hip Procedure	Procedure Number <i>CHC-RAD-002</i>	Version Nos: 4
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- 2.04 The General Practitioner will receive the radiology result. If DDH is confirmed, they will urgently refer the infant to Orthopaedic Outpatients for a FSA. If DDH is excluded, the General Practitioner will inform the parents of this finding in a timely manner.
- 2.05 Midwives, Practice Nurses, Plunket Nurses, Public Health Nurses And Rural Nurse Specialists will refer all suspected cases of DDH to the infant's General Practitioner for clinical review.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ All babies at risk of DDH regardless of examination findings are to be referred by a General Practitioner/Midwife for radiographic imaging
- ➔ All infants with suspected DDH are to be reviewed by a General Practitioner
- ➔ If the General Practitioner has a suspicion of DDH, they are to refer the infant to the Radiology Department at Grey Base Hospital

8. References

There are no references associated with this Procedure.

9. Related Documents

Revision History	Version:	4
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