**REFERRALS TO SPECIALISTS**

After seeing patients in the Perioperative Service Clinic, it may be appropriate to seek a specialist physician to review a patient for further investigation or opinion about management of an identified problem.

1. Referrals must be by specialist anaesthetists. Registrars must discuss planned referrals with the consultant in clinic, Dr Ross Kerridge or the Duty Director of Anaesthetics.

2. If possible, the patient’s GP should be contacted and the problem clarified. If referral is still necessary, the GP should be asked if they have a preference about who to refer to.

3. See template for preferred format. All letters are to be typed by the Administration Officers please write out, email or dictate your letter. It will be sent as soon as possible to the addressee and cc’d to appropriate Medical officers, and cc’d to GP.

4. Referrals should be to JHH/RNC physicians and services in the first instance. If referring to an outside specialist or diagnostic service, the billing practice must be clarified (check with the Perioperative Service Clinic nurses).

5. If the surgery needs to be postponed pending review/investigations, the surgeon must be notified (as well as admissions).

6. If not appropriate to postpone surgery and a cardiac opinion is required, request for patient to be presented to the Cardiology Meeting.

7. It is not appropriate to request a test. The correct procedure is to refer to a consultant requesting an opinion, in particular his/her consideration of a particular test.

**DR ROSS KERRIDGE**  
**DIRECTOR OF PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES**