

## **JHH Perioperative Service Local Guideline**

### **Title**

Approach to the patient in the JHH perioperative clinic.

### **Background**

This guideline is intended for use by anaesthetic doctors working in the John Hunter Hospital Perioperative Clinic. It is not mandatory that this approach be followed, however it may be found useful by doctors who are new to anaesthetic preoperative assessment, or new to the JHH.

### **Guideline**

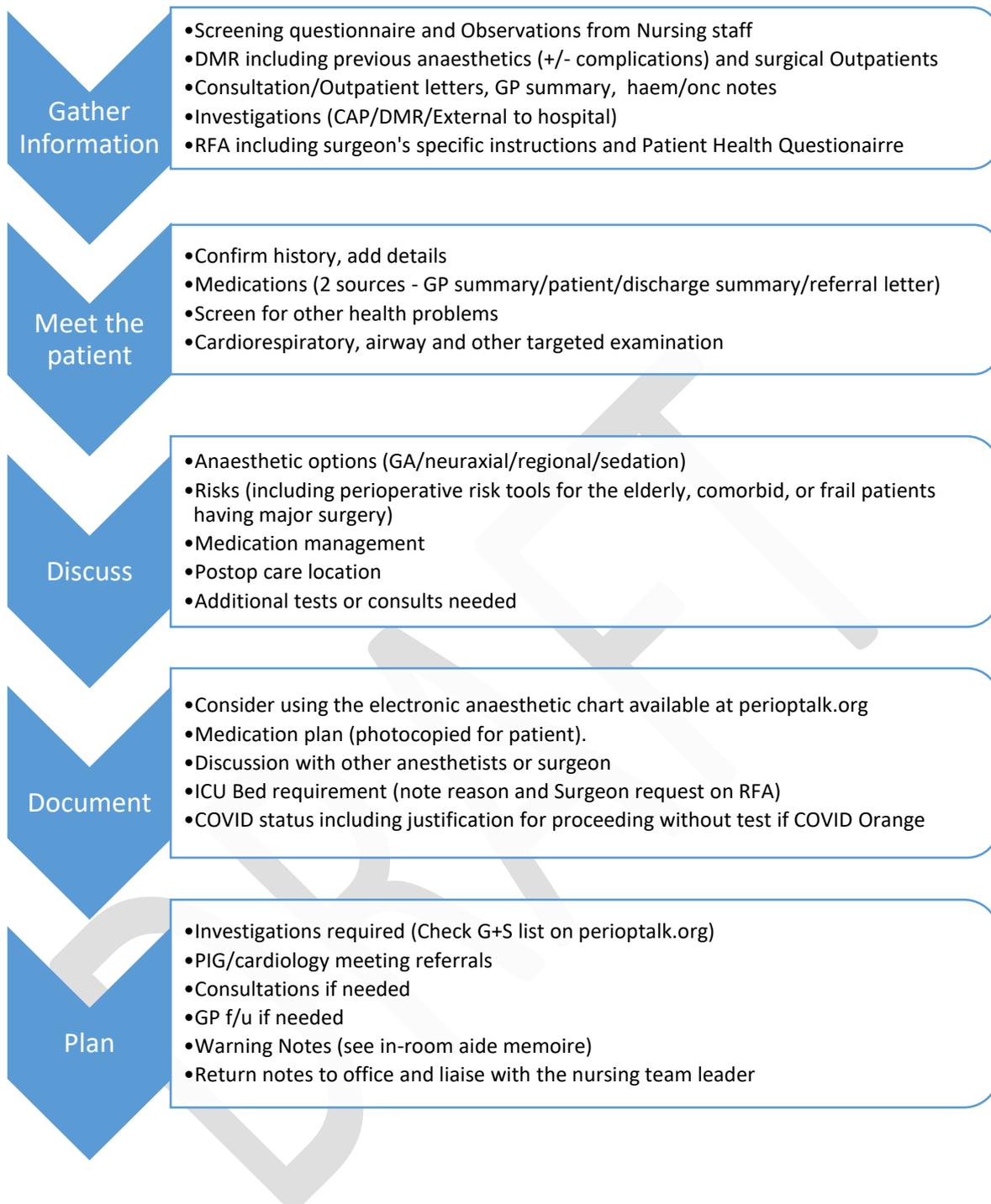
#### **Structure**

Patients are triaged to attend the clinic based on their comorbidities, age, surgery type and surgeon preferences. On the day, patients are initially reviewed by a clinic nurse, either in person or by phone. Health information is gathered through a screening questionnaire and a set of observations is obtained at face-to-face reviews. Letters from specialists and relevant external investigations are obtained.

Patients are then ready for a clinic doctor review.

#### **General Considerations**

- See face-to-face patients as a priority, to minimise wait times and enable social distancing in waiting areas.
- If in doubt about any issues, ask the nursing team leader and/or the senior clinic doctor.
- The perioptalk.org website is a useful resource for local guidelines and other perioperative materials.
- Formal anaesthetic consultation (green folders) should be seen by fellows or consultants, although they may provide a useful teaching opportunity for registrars and SRMOs.
- It may be efficient for the patient to wait while a booking is made for an urgent investigation (e.g. TTE). Liaise with the nursing team leader regarding this.



### Phone consultation specifics

- Confirm that it's an appropriate time to speak with the patient.
- Document on the chart that it is a phone consultation.
- Airway examination info may be transferred from previous anaesthetic records, documented as such.
- Arrange a suitable NSW Health Pathology location for any required bloodwork. G&S must be attended in our local health district cluster to be valid.

**Consultation:** Dr Paul Healey

**References**

[www.Perioptalk.org](http://www.Perioptalk.org)

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