NSW Health

Ref: HA26/4577

Ms Margie Drake
Executive Officer
NSW/ACT Primary Health Network
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Information for GP's referring patients for elective/planned surgery

Dear Ms Drake

I am writing to ask that the NSW/ACT Primary Health Network share the following information with Primary Health Networks and General Practitioners (GP) to support informed referral discussions with patients who require planned surgery.

In accordance with section 68 of the Health Services Act 1997, patients may access elective surgery at a hospital other than their local hospital. Discussing available options for surgery may help suitable patients access surgery sooner where they are willing and able to travel.

Providing patients with more choice, and a faster pathway to surgery

The Northern Beaches Hospital Surgical Hub, NSW's first dedicated surgical hub, opened on 1 July 2026. It provides high-quality planned surgery in purpose-built facilities and may offer shorter waiting times for clinically suitable patients. The hub initially provides Ear, Nose and Throat, Gynaecology, General and Urology surgery, with additional specialties and referral pathways to be expanded as the service grows.

Further information on the hub, including criteria, services and referral pathways are available at https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Hospitals/surgicalhub/Pages/default.aspx.

Connecting GPs with the right surgical services so that patients can access care sooner

If a GP is unsure which specialists provide a particular service, whether a procedure is available at a specific public hospital, or which doctors are accredited to practise at that facility, the planned surgery contact at each Local Health District or Specialty Health Network can provide advice. The statewide directory of surgery contacts is available at https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Performance/Pages/surgery-contacts.aspx

Thank you for helping patients across NSW make informed choices and access timely surgery.For further information, please contact the Surgical Services team at the NSW Ministry of Health via MOH-surgery@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Matthew Daly
Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance
04-11-2026