

# Children's Wisconsin

## Co-Management Guidelines

To support collaborative care, we have developed guidelines for our community providers to utilize when referring to, and managing patients with, the pediatric specialists at Children's Wisconsin. These guidelines provide protocols for jointly managing patient cases between community providers and our pediatric specialists.

Inguinal and Abdominal Wall Hernias				
Symptoms:	Referring provider's initial evaluation and management:	When to refer to General Surgery:	What can referring provider send to Surgery?	Workup in General Surgery clinic will likely include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Inguinal Hernias without hydrocele – swelling of the groin or scrotum</b></li> <li><b>Inguinal Hernia with hydrocele – swelling of the groin and scrotum with accumulation of fluid around the testicle</b></li> <li><b>Umbilical Hernias – a sac protruding through the umbilicus</b></li> <li><b>Epigastric Hernia – an opening in anterior abdominal muscle layer that allows contents of the abdomen to protrude (omentum, intestine, fat)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Palpation of the inguinal canal or abdominal wall to detect hernia. Note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size of defect</li> <li>Defect with or without abdominal contents present</li> <li>Contents easily reducible vs. concern for incarceration</li> </ul> <p>When assessing an inguinal hernia, note if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testes descended</li> <li>Fluid around the testicle +/- light transillumination</li> </ul> <p>Consider Ultrasound if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern for incarceration</li> <li>Concern about testicle</li> </ul>	<p><b>*Send directly to Emergency Department if concern for incarceration (obstructive symptoms, ischemic changes)</b></p> <p><b>Inguinal Hernias:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If asymptomatic, groin swelling: Refer for elective appointment.</li> <li>If symptomatic without concern for incarceration, refer for urgent appointment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Umbilical Hernias:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wait to refer until patient is 4 years or older as vast majority close spontaneously and very low risk of incarceration</li> <li>Symptomatic incarceration at any age is an indication for emergent referral.</li> </ul> <p><b>Epigastric Hernia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer for elective appointment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>If urgent or emergent, please call the Physician Consultation Line at (800) 266-0366</b></p> <p><b>Internal Provider using Epic:</b> Place Ambulatory Referral to Surgery</p> <p><b>External Provider using Epic:</b> Please complete the external referral order to CHW SURGERY CLINICS - or - Fax to Central Scheduling at (414) 607-5288 - or - Online <a href="#">ambulatory referral form</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgency of referral</li> <li>Question to be answered</li> <li>Chief complaint including onset, frequency</li> <li>Recent progress note or office note</li> <li>Labs and imaging results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of relevant history and medical records, and a detailed physical exam. Imaging will be obtained if clinically indicated.</li> </ul>

\*Approved by Specialty Medical Leader, CSG Clinical Integration, CMG Clinical Guidelines Core Team



For questions concerning this work,  
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