Treatment pathway for children referred to Perth Children’s Hospital (PCH) with Constipation +/- Soiling

**Aim:** This pathway outlines the usual course of treatment for children referred to the Department of General Paediatrics with a diagnosis of constipation.

**Definition:** Constipation is an inability to pass soft stools on a regular basis.

**Referral assessed by Department of General Paediatrics intake team**

- History of congenital anorectal anomaly?
- History of delayed passage of meconium > 48 hrs?
  - **Y:** Refer to Department of Surgery at PCH
  - **N:** Within Perth Children’s Hospital postcode catchment area (6009)?
    - **Y:** Seen by Dept General Paediatrics
      - Functional Constipation
        - Medical Review (link to laxative protocol)
        - GP follow up
      - Constipation & Soiling
        - <7 years old
          - Medical review
          - +/- refer to continence services
          - +/- refer Psychological Medicine
        - >7 years old
          - Medical review
          - +/- refer to physiotherapy
          - +/- refer Psychological Medicine
  - **N:** Redirect to local paediatric outpatient service as per per post code

**Additional resources to consider:**
- For infants < 6 months: Ngala
- For children registered with the Disability Services Commission, liaise with Local Area Coordinator
- For clinical psychologist in the private sector - access through Medicare Rebate Scheme.