

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Standardized Care Protocols

1. SUSPECTED IBD OUTPATIENT FLARE

Physician/Nurse:

1. Gather information using the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patient Phone Consultation form ([#1](#)).
2. Utilize the information collected to complete the Harvey Bradshaw Index ([#2](#)) or Partial Mayo ([#3](#)) with the patient; if the patient has an undetermined diagnosis, an HBI will be used.
3. Communicate the completed assessment to the most responsible physician /nurse practitioner within the following timelines:

Timeline	Patient Assessment Guidelines	Mode of communication
Urgent/Emergent	Patient requires immediate intervention/investigation or is able to wait only until the next day in the following cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abdominal pain that is not relieved with any intervention - profuse rectal bleeding - new fistula with an elevated temperature - elevated temperature, not improved by intervention - elevated temperature while on biologic therapy - sudden/unexplained change in health status - extensive bloating and pain or unable to pass stool for 48 hours (obstruction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - page and speak with the physician / NP directly - if plan to admit – refer to “14. IBD ADMISSION – PATIENT CARE ORDERS”
Routine	Patient is able to wait for 2-3 days for intervention/investigation in the following cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -nausea/vomiting -fistula draining – old site - fecal incontinence/urgency - up at night with diarrhea - more frequent diarrhea - bloating - fatigue - change in daily activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - send email or EMR message to physician / NP

4. Under the direction of the physician process laboratory/diagnostic imaging investigations based on the assessment:
 - a. IBD Flare Labs ([#4](#)).
 - b. Stool C diff and culture and sensitivity (if have diarrhea) ([#5](#)). ([PACE QPI 1](#))
 - c. Stool Fecal Calprotectin ([#6](#)), if patient is on Humira use specific requisition ([#7](#)).
 - d. Ova and Parasite should be added if patient has recently travelled or was camping ([#8](#)).
 - e. Flat plate of abdomen with 3 views if the patient is experiencing bloating, nausea, vomiting ([#9](#)).
 - f. Hepatitis B and C testing if negative results are not documented ([#10](#))
5. Deliver requisitions to the patient by one of the following methods:
 - fax requisition to the patient’s closest laboratory/radiology centre
 - send the requisition to the patient via email, standard mail or fax

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- give the requisitions to the patient if the patient is present in clinic
- 6. Let the patient know to contact you once testing is complete.
- 7. Review the results with the physician to determine further investigations, follow-up or treatment change.

Physician Guided:

1. Consider ordering the following imaging:
 - a. CT enterography ([#11](#))
 - b. MR enterography ([#12](#))
 - c. Abdominal x-ray ([#13](#))
 - d. MRI pelvis ([#14](#))
 - e. Ultrasound ([#15](#))
 - f. Endoscopy depending on history

For Edmonton zone, fax CT and MR requisitions to 1-855-776-3818.

2. If the patient:
 - a. Has moderate to severe active disease
 - b. Previously had good response to Corticosteroids (40 mg per day for >14 days) with no or minor side effects ([PACE QPI 3](#))
 - c. Had not required two or more courses of systemic steroids in the last year ([PACE QPI 7](#))

Consider Corticosteroids tapering course and refer to “6. INITIATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CORTICOSTEROIDS”.

3. If the patient is on an anti-TNF consider Infliximab or Adalimumab trough and antibody serum levels as per algorithm:
 1. Infliximab – [min. 14 weeks after 1st initiation]. Once the requisition is generated, you must attach the Infliximab Level Order Form([#16](#) & [#17](#)).
 2. Adalimumab – [min 14weeks after 1st initiation] ([#18](#) & [#19](#)).
4. If patient is on Azathioprine (stable dose for 4 weeks), consider 6-TG and 6-MMP levels ([#20](#) & [#21](#)).
5. Decide on the timeline for a follow-up clinic visit or telephone to initiate care.