

Te Manawa Taki Community Referred Radiology (CRR) Update – June 2026

Information for Primary Care

The Community Referred Radiology (CRR) Hub is part of the national CRR Programme, which aims to improve access to diagnostic radiology for patients referred by community-based clinicians.

Direct access to a wider range of imaging for community clinicians can:

- Reduce waiting times for treatment, through earlier referral.
- Improve patient care and outcomes through earlier diagnosis and treatment, reducing unnecessary hospital admissions.
- Prioritise funding where it will have the greatest impact for patients and ensure consistent, high-quality care throughout Aotearoa New Zealand

This initiative forms part of a wider Health New Zealand programme called **Improving Diagnostic Services**.

Key Components of the National CRR Programme and Progress to Date

These include the development of new [National CRR Referral Criteria](#), a national data platform, and regional CRR Hubs.

- The **National CRR Referral Criteria** support nationally consistent access to imaging, and were introduced in September 2025, with a recent update in March 2026, following feedback from community referrers.
- Establishment of **Regional CRR Hubs** consisting of a team of Primary Care Radiology Liaisons (PCRLs), led by a General Practitioner Radiology Liaison (GPRL). The CRR Hub activities will include:
 - Prospective triage of urgent (within 2 weeks) and routine (within 6 weeks or for a specific date) Xray, Ultrasound and CT referrals. There is no triage of acute (same or next day) referrals at this time.
 - Retrospective clinical auditing of targeted CRR referrals, including acute referrals, to refine existing criteria and identify opportunities for new direct community access to imaging.

- Providing a first point of contact for any CRR related questions or concerns - collaborating with both community referrers and radiology services to provide support such as clinical advice, targeted education and with any issues that arise.

CRR Progress in the Te Manawa Taki Region

Development of the Te Manawa Taki Hub is underway, with regional teams responsible for its operational management and delivery.

Currently hospital radiology departments and some private providers triage community radiology referrals. Once the CRR Hub is in place, the PCRLs will pick up this triaging, ensuring a consistent approach across the region. PCRLs are likely to be local clinicians who understand the complexities of primary and urgent care within Te Manawa Taki.

We are expecting to advertise these PCRL roles shortly and will send information out on how to apply as soon as it is available.

Work is also underway to update the Te Manawa Taki BPAC referral forms so these include all the new CRR imaging types, and we will let you know when this work is complete.

In the meantime, if the Ultrasound Scan that you want to request does not have its own tick box, please tick “Other” and then tick “Yes” to the statement “I have discussed it with a radiologist (name and role).” Be sure to include the Ultrasound type that you are requesting and all the relevant clinical information.

In the longer-term there will be further changes to the forms to include all the required information to streamline the referral process. Over time there will be full integration between BPAC and the Te Manawa Taki Regional Radiology Information System (RIS) providing end to end, closed loop electronic communication between community referrers and HNZ Radiology services.

A new Enhanced Access (EA) Service is also being rolled out across the country. The Te Manawa Taki EA service is currently being established, which the CRR programme will work with to provide practical navigator support for patients who may find it difficult to attend their radiology appointments. We will provide more detailed information around how this will work as it becomes available.

The CRR Programme Team at Te Manawa Taki

All CRR programme work over the last 6 months has focused on laying the foundations for future implementation of the CRR Hub.

The CRR programme is currently positioned within the Regional Te Manawa Taki Planning, Funding and Outcomes team; however, it will transition to Hospital and Specialist Services (H&SS) for regional operational management.

Key Programme Team Members include:

Dr Danielle Gerrard (FRNZCGP) began part-time as the GPRL lead in December 2025. She has been busy:

- Advising Digital Services on development of the BPAC and RIS changes.
- Contributing to the understanding of current and future workflows, ensuring they remain fit for purpose for primary and urgent care.
- Acting as a liaison, supporting both Health NZ Radiology services and community referrers with issues as they arise.
- Supporting the National HealthPathways team with the roll out of the CRR criteria.

Philippa Davies joined in May as Programme Manager, providing project management oversight and serving as a central point of contact.

Iain Diamond, System Design Manager – Referred Services. Leads the design and delivery of integrated health services across Te Manawa Taki, partnering with stakeholders to enhance system performance and outcomes.

Harry Sunde has recently joined HNZ as Portfolio Manager for Radiology, supporting provider relationships and ensuring alignment between services and system priorities.

Anna Ainsworth is the Regional Radiology Delivery Lead, supporting both the District Radiology Services and the new CRR Hub, ensuring close relationships and smooth service delivery.

Engagement and Communications

As the programme progresses, we will continue to engage with community referrers and share clear, regular updates. These communications will cover planning, CRR Hub delivery, and any future changes impacting CRR criteria and referral processes.

Feedback

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact us at: **communityradiologyTMT@tewhatauora.govt.nz**