

Acute Ambulatory Care Unit (AACU)

The **WCH AACU** is a GIM-lead short stay medical unit run that provides:

1. Urgent assessment and management of acute medical illness
2. Management of exacerbations of chronic medical conditions
3. Rapid diagnostic work-up of a new medical problem
4. IV infusions

EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE MANAGED IN THE AACU:

- Diagnosis of DVT/PE and initiation of low molecular weight heparin/warfarin
- IV antibiotics for cellulitis, pneumonia, diabetic foot infection
- Red cell transfusion for anemia
- IV lasix for congestive heart failure
- COPD/asthma exacerbation for steroid initiation and frequent bronchodilators
- Optimization of glycemic control in diabetes
- Management of new atrial fibrillation
- Work-up of syncope
- Work up of chest pain

REFERRAL CRITERIA:

1. Patient must be medically stable
2. Management of medical condition achievable in 24 hours
3. Patient able to come for outpatient followup

REFERRAL EXCLUSIONS:

1. Patient is medically unstable
2. Patient requires an inpatient admission
3. Patient requires acute neurological consultation
4. Patient requires surgical consultation
5. Patient has end stage renal disease and is on dialysis
6. Patient has a G/J feeding tube

AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

- Laboratory investigations
- Radiology including x-ray, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, CT scan, MRI
- Non-invasive cardiac testing (stress test, echo, nuclear cardiac testing)
- Pulmonary function tests
- Allied health including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and social work
- Subspecialty support