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**CONTACTING YOUR GASTROENTEROLOGIST IF YOU ARE UNWELL**

Professor Kamm, Dr Valaydon and Dr Basnayake ensure that their patients always have access to care. In working hours each weekday except Wednesday they can be contacted by ringing the private office - **03 9417 5064**. If it is after hours, or if the office is closed for holidays, please ring St Vincent's Public Hospital switchboard on **03 9231 2211** and speak to the Gastroenterology Registrar. If it is after hours speak to the **Resident** covering Gastroenterology inpatients. If it is an emergency then come to the Emergency Department at St Vincent's Public Hospital.

**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR SPECIALIST IS ON LEAVE**

Our specialists are occasionally absent from the practice for short periods. The Practice Manager is usually present, and can be contacted if you have any concerns. Our specialists are usually contactable - she can communicate with them about you.

If the office is unattended, however, the answering machine message will ask you to contact the covering doctor, who is one of our three specialists.

To contact your doctor or the covering doctor about an urgent medical issue please ring St Vincent's Public Hospital switchboard on **03 9231 2211**. Ask the telephonist to page your specialist (or the current covering doctor). If your doctor is not contactable for any reason, during normal working hours Monday to Friday, speak to the **Gastroenterology Registrar**, who will help you. After hours speak to the **Resident** covering Gastroenterology inpatients.

The team at St Vincent's Public Hospital comprises Consultant Gastroenterologists, Registrars and Residents. All of these people are excellent. They will give you excellent care if you attend the Emergency Department or are admitted to hospital.

If you require admission to hospital, it is better to be admitted to St Vincent's Public Hospital. Our specialists all work at St Vincent's Hospital and have complete confidence in the hospital team. While away, and then on their return, your specialist will receive a comprehensive briefing. If necessary, a follow up appointment will be made by the Practice Manager for you to see your specialist in the private rooms.

We trust that these arrangements will prove satisfactory to you and your family. If you have any queries, please feel free to ask the Practice Manager and she will convey any concerns to your specialist.