

# ACS

## General Surgery - Acute Care Surgery (ACS)

### The ACS surgeons

**Dr. Alan Berg** completed medical school at Queen's and residency in Ottawa. Dr. Berg has a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery from Ottawa. He worked in Michigan for two years before joining ACS at OTMH.

**Dr. Maggie Gordon** did medical school in Ottawa and her general surgery residency at McMaster. She has been working with the surgery team at OTMH since 2012.

**Dr. Dave Paskar** went to medical school in Toronto and obtained his general surgery training at Western. He then completed a fellowship in Critical Care, Trauma, and Acute Care Surgery in Toronto. He keeps his adrenaline flowing taking trauma and ICU call downtown.

### What is ACS?

General surgery's Acute Care Surgery (ACS) service provides urgent general surgery care for emergency department and admitted patients. ACS models have been successful in many hospitals and tend to reduce lengths of stay and complication rates. At OTMH, we started our own general surgery ACS service in July 2018 and the first six months have been a success.

### What does our ACS model look like?

Each week one of the ACS general surgeons is on-call for consults from the emergency department and inpatient wards Monday to Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm. That surgeon follows all the ACS patients until surgical issues have resolved or until discharge.

The ACS surgeon will usually be in the Medical Surgical Outpatients clinic each morning 9:00 - 11:00am and in the operating room 12:00 - 3:30pm.

### What are the goals of the ACS service?

Prompt consultation for patients with general surgery issues

Prompt access to the operating room for surgical intervention

Shorter lengths of stay

Optimal patient and family satisfaction with hospital experience

Continuity for acute general surgery patients

Daytime surgical interventions to decrease complication rates and free up evening OR time

## ACS resources

- Dedicated general surgery ACS operating room access weekday\* afternoons (approximately 12:00 - 3:30pm) for emergency and urgent operative cases
- Medical Surgical Outpatients clinic time every morning 9:00 - 1100am

\* Tuesday to Friday currently, expanding to Monday to Friday in March 2019.

## How can we optimize ACS patients' experiences?

Many general surgery ACS patients (e.g. appendicitis, cholecystitis) can have their assessments, diagnostic tests, and surgical management all done in a single day. Dedicated ACS operating room time is a very valuable resource available to these patients. ACS patients with imaging completed and reviewed **in the morning** can access ACS afternoon OR time and go home before bedtime. Prompt identification and referral of ACS patients ensures efficient care.

## Who takes care of ACS on weekends?

The surgeon who is on call Friday and Sunday cares for the ACS patients on the weekend. The Friday + Sunday surgeon may be any of the general surgeons. The Friday + Sunday surgeon will round on the ACS inpatients Saturday and Sunday mornings.

On Saturday mornings, try to clarify ACS patient issues with the Friday + Sunday surgeon before he / she finishes rounding. After ACS rounds are done on Saturday, please page the Saturday surgeon on-call for urgent issues.

**Always** call the on-call general surgeon if you have any urgent concerns.

## How to refer patients to the ACS clinic

Patients who would benefit from prompt follow-up with a general surgeon can be referred to the general surgery ACS clinic, which runs daily from 9:00 - 11:00am in Medical Surgical Outpatients

- Page the on-call surgeon to ensure the referral is best managed in the ACS clinic
- Document on a referral form, for example, "Discussed with Dr. Grey. Follow up in general surgery ACS clinic in 7-10 days."
- Fax the emergency department cover sheet to 289-529-0251
- Inform the patient that he / she will hear from the general surgery ACS office within two business days with an appointment
- Give the patient the ACS contact information. The Zone C unit clerk has ACS team business cards. You can also print the information from [oakvillesurgeons.com](http://oakvillesurgeons.com).

Patients who are more likely to need elective / scheduled surgery may be redirected to one of the surgeons with elective resources.

## General surgery ACS contact information

Telephone: 289-813-0211

Fax: 289-529-0251

Web: [www.oakvillesurgeons.com](http://www.oakvillesurgeons.com)