

## Guidelines for use of the ESA Subspecialist Network

The Endocrine Society of Australia Subspecialist Network is an initiative of the Endocrine Society of Australia Early Career Committee in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia Council. The aim of this online directory is to enable junior clinicians to contact subspecialists across Australia in order to obtain general comments and discussion in complex cases. This is an educational initiative and not a referral or clinical pathway.

All subspecialists across Australia are welcome to be part of the network; please email [ijohnson@endocrinesociety.org.au](mailto:ijohnson@endocrinesociety.org.au) if you are interested in being listed as a subspecialist in your given field.

Please read the guidelines below before using this directory.

1. Comments provided by subspecialists are separate to the Endocrine Society of Australia and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Endocrine Society of Australia
2. Any information received through use of the directory is not to be used as a means to replace the advice of a patient's treating practitioner or team of practitioners, and it does not negate the need for appropriate supervisory and multidisciplinary input
3. Management of patients at all times remains the responsibility of the patient's usual practitioners who should use their own judgement in any medical decisions made
4. Responses from subspecialists are based on a clinical scenario and not on an individual patient's clinical situation
5. As any comment or discussion provided by subspecialists is to be considered general in nature only, please:
  - a. Do not include any patient identifiers in emails, attachments or subsequent phone conversations
  - b. Do not name any subspecialist or record any advice given by a subspecialist in a patient's medical records, unless explicit permission is granted by the subspecialist
  - c. Do not pass on a subspecialist's details or advice to a patient
6. Do not share the contact details of subspecialists with any other party
7. Do not use the directory to contact subspecialists about conditions relating to your own health or that of family or friends
8. Please use a secure work-based email rather than a personal email to write to subspecialists
9. Endocrine trainees should obtain approval from the patient's treating consultant before using this directory to contact a subspecialist

For subspecialists participating in the Network:

1. Although subspecialists are providing general comments and discussion only, there remains a risk that a subspecialist may be drawn into a complaint or legal proceedings for information that was acted upon; subspecialists should consider this risk when providing comments and discussion
2. In reply, subspecialists may wish to reiterate that comments and discussion offered via the Endocrine Society of Australia Subspecialist Network are of a general nature with the following suggested wording '*Please understand that the comments provided are of a general nature and may not be applicable to individual patients.*'