

EMERGENCY BURNS CARE: ADMISSION AND PATIENT TRANSFER TO CHW POLICY[®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Major and Minor Burn wound management
- Patients are treated as either inpatients or outpatients
- Patients presenting to CHW ED
- Consultation service about minor burns management for burns patients NOT presenting to CHW.
- Kidsburns digital email clinic
- Indications for referral and transfer

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Due for mandatory review

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Discretionary – local manager to determine which staff, if any, are to acknowledge the document.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st April 2019	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Nurse Practitioner	Area/Dept: Burns Unit CHW

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1 Introduction

The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the tertiary referral centre for paediatric burns in NSW. All children from birth to 16 years of age with a burn that meets the referral criteria as per The NSW Statewide Burns Service Transfer Guidelines (SBIS) are referred to CHW. (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/burninjury>)

Patients are treated either as in-patients or out-patients.

Inpatients are assessed in the CHW ED and may be admitted to Clubbe ward or PICU, depending on severity of injury.

Patients presenting with burn injuries assessed in the CHW ED as requiring in-patient care are routinely admitted under the care of the relevant Consultant on-call for burns. These patients are routinely assessed by the Surgical or Plastics Registrar on-call for the consultant, (both during hours and after hours) and also reviewed by the Burns Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) for advice and support during working hours.

For ambulatory care the Burns Service at CHW offers a Nurse Practitioner led clinic for those patients meeting tertiary referral criteria without requiring an inpatient stay and also a supportive outreach service with regional Paediatric Ambulatory Clinics. A digital photographic e-mail consultation service (kidsburns@chw.edu.au) is available for consultation, referral, and to facilitate local management of the patient with support from the CHW Burns unit staff.

Patients assessed in the CHW ED as requiring out-patient treatment are referred to one of the following:

- The Burns and Plastics Treatment Centre at CHW
- One of the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Clinics affiliated with the BPTC
- Their primary care doctor/GP or referral centre with Kidsburns follow up

The consultant on call for the day (0730- 0730 following day) is the consultant that is allocated for a child that is referred from first point of contact with CHW. This contact can be made directly by contacting on call registrar/ burns fellow, directly through to the NP, via Kidsburns email clinic, or through direct presentation to ED. The consultant on call at that first contact point will remain the consultant allocated to this child until they require surgical intervention e.g. grafting under general surgical team, when the child will then be allocated to the consultant attending the procedure or for the plastics team, they will remain under the same consultant unless advised by the treating consultant, eg, covering for leave etc.

Contact details

Through switch for on call registrar/

Burns NUM – 0437 922 305, Clubbe extension 51003, 51114

Burns CNC – Page 7240

Burns NP – Extension 51044, 0436 664 947

2 Children presenting to the ED of a District Hospital

A child that presents to an ED of a district hospital with a major burn or that which meets transfer guidelines as per the NSW SBIS, are accepted by the Surgical or plastics registrar on call (on behalf of the consultant on call) and transfer occurs to CHW ED, where the child is further assessed. Transfer to CHW is organised by the referral hospital and may include the involvement of NETS and consultation with CHW PICU.

Children presenting to the ED of a district hospital with a minor burn should be treated at that hospital or ambulatory care clinic wherever possible, with referral to Kidsburns digital email clinic. This applies particularly to hospitals with their own paediatric units. The transfer of a child with a minor burn injury from another hospital to the CHW ED for treatment often represents inappropriate usage of a Tertiary Paediatric Facility. Treatment of a child in a facility geographically remote from the family home creates significant social, financial and practical difficulties for the family.

For established minor burns, staff at the district hospital should be encouraged to contact the Burns NP or after hours general surgical/ plastics registrar on call for appropriate management advice and referral and to use the digital photographic consultation service (kidsburns).

Staff at the district hospital should photograph the burn injury, apply a suitable dressing, and after gaining consent, e-mail kidsburns@chw.edu.au with the images, consent form and information regarding the patient, the burn injury and contact details.

Once the email has been received at Kidsburns and reviewed, information and support will be given to the local area with burn management advice and treatment plan.

3 Indications for Patient Referral and Transfer to CHW for Emergency Burn Care

1. Children from the birth to 16 years
2. Children with a burn that is greater than 10% total body surface area (TBSA), or full thickness burn greater than 5% TBSA
3. Children with an associated inhalation injury, or burn to face and neck
4. Children with an electrical or chemical injury
5. Children at risk of Non-accidental injury
6. Children with circumferential burn
7. Children with a burn involving hands, feet, major joints, or genitalia and perineum
8. Children with a burn and associated multi trauma injuries
9. Acceptance of transfer by CHW Burns Consultant

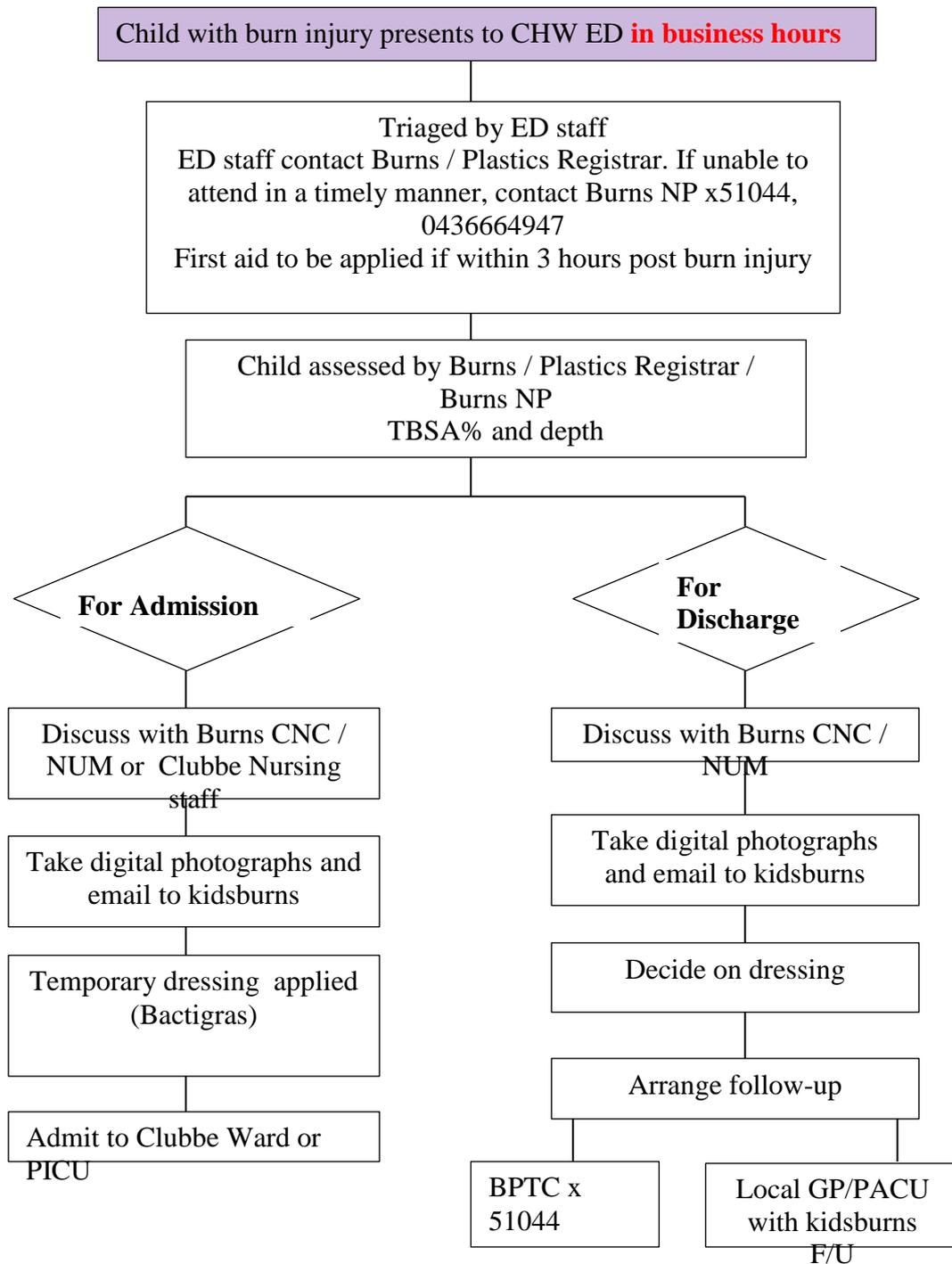
4 Transfer to CHW for In-patient Emergency Burns Care

Entry point to CHW ED for emergency care can be from various different modes

- Direct entry via ambulance service from place of injury to CHW ED
- Referral from local or regional hospital of a child meeting tertiary referral to CHW ED
- Consultant burns surgeon requests patient be transferred to CHW if necessary for further assessment and treatment e.g. application of Biobrane after hours
- Burns general surgical or plastics registrar receives call from other healthcare facility requesting acceptance of patient transfer to CHW ED that meets referral criteria
- Parents self-presenting to ED with their child for emergency management of an acute burn injury

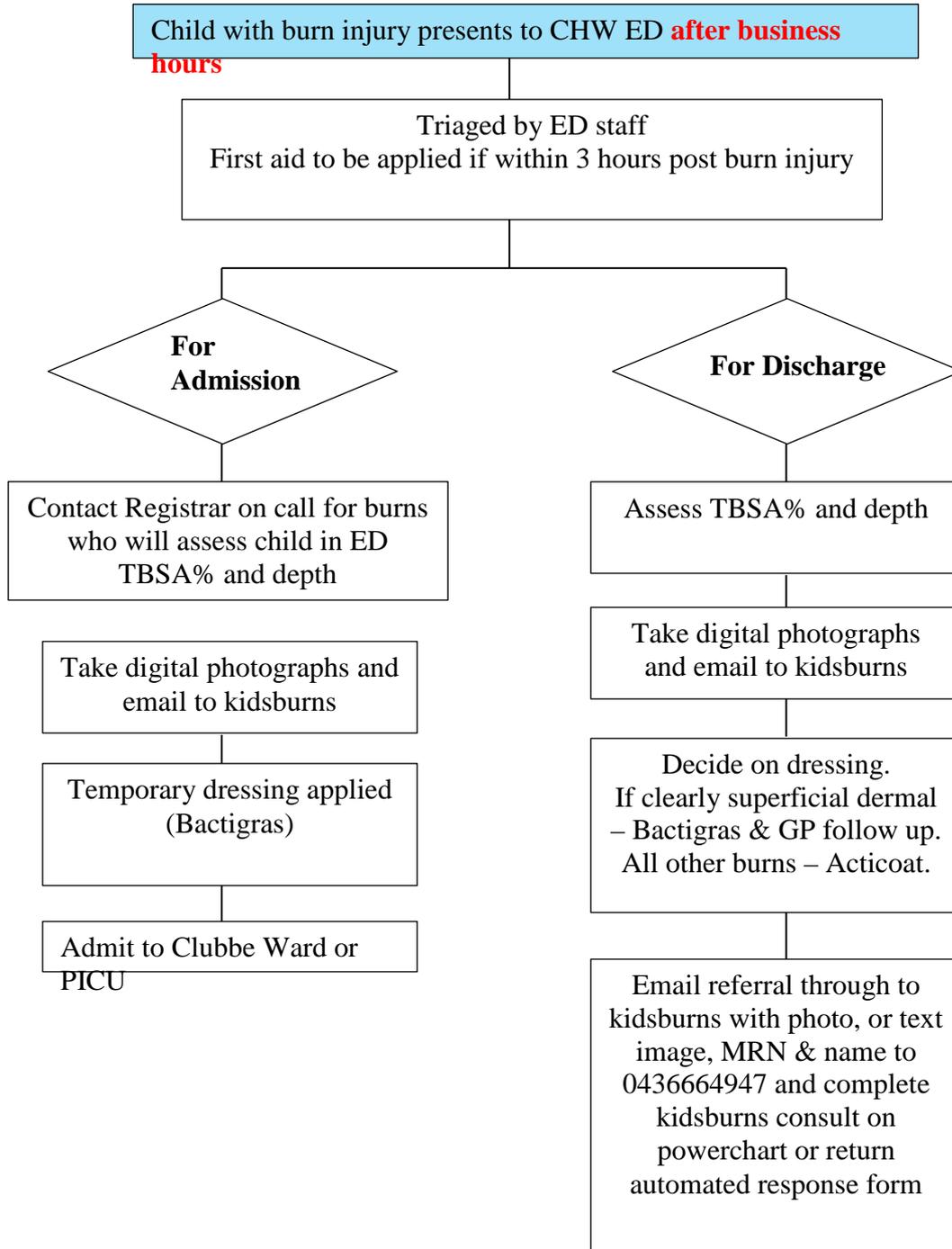
The following gives a guideline as to the process of a child with burns present to CHW ED.

5 Child with burn presents to CHW ED in hours (Flowchart 1a)



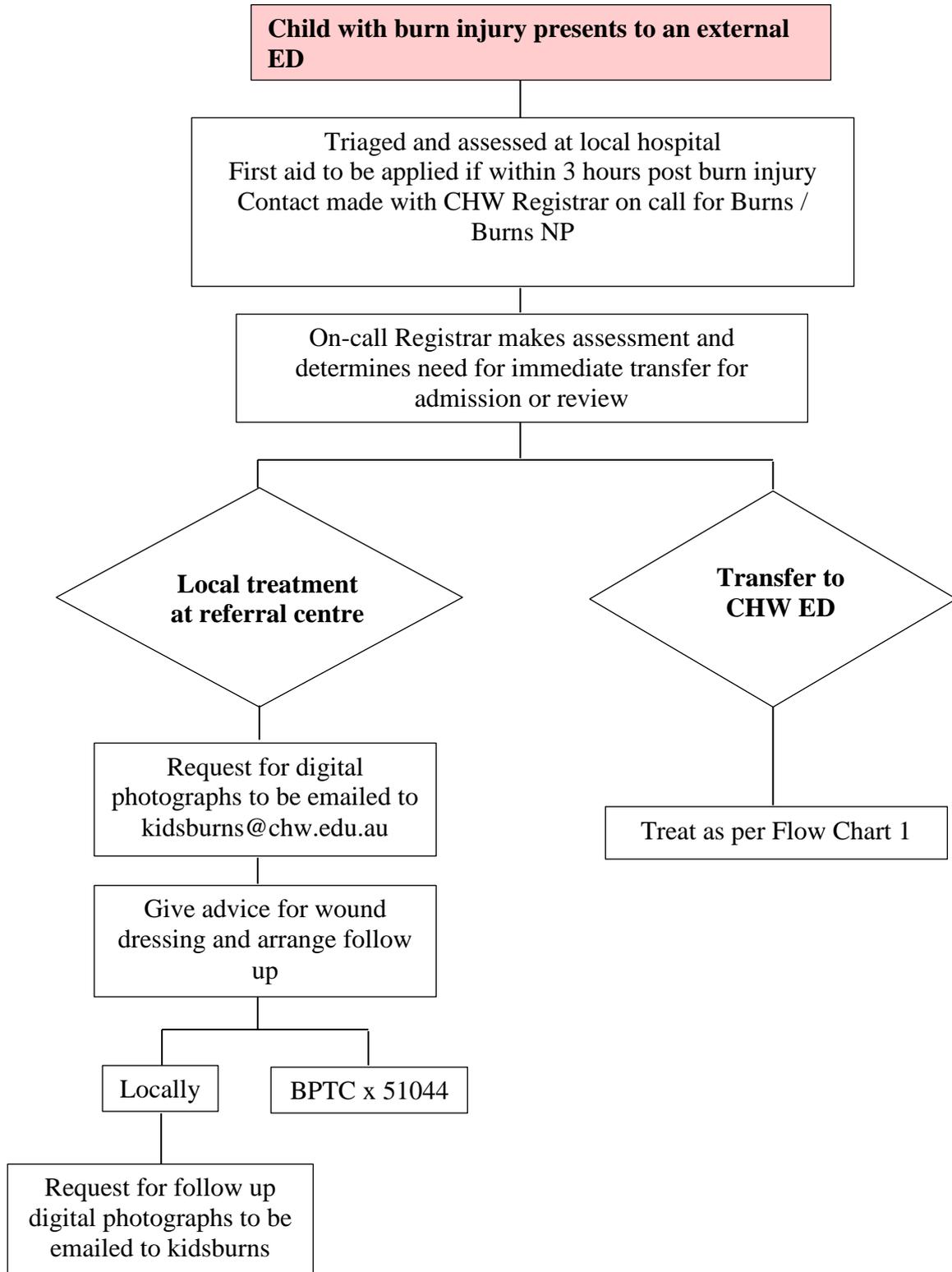
The on call register is then to send a detailed email to kidsburns@chw.edu.au with a copy to the consultant on call documenting the treatment plan.

6 Child with burn presents to CHW ED after hours (Flowchart 1b)



The on call registrar is to then send detailed email to kidsburns@chw.edu.au including photos and copy to consultant on call.

7 Consultation about a burn Injury External to CHW



8 Kidsburns Digital Email Clinic

Kidsburns digital email clinic was established to help gain further information about the burn wound from peripheral referral centres and to help identify the need for transfer to CHW for definite wound treatment.

The service is open to all health professionals throughout NSW who are wishing to refer children to CHW for treatment and burn wound care advice.

The majority of children referred to the Kidsburns clinic are burns that are under <5% TBSA, that do meet referral criteria for consult, but that could easily be managed with support at the local area.

This service allows for:

1. Treatment to occur at the referral centre with support and guidance from the BPTC, without travelling to the CHW for treatment.
2. Further burn knowledge and skills to be gained by local Health Professionals
3. Increased involvement of local Paediatric Ambulatory centres for care of children with a burn injury
4. Children requiring tertiary referral to be seen in appropriate time frame

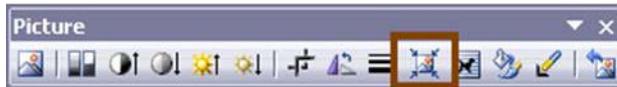
8.1 Process for referral to [Kidsburns@chw.edu.au](mailto:kidsburns@chw.edu.au)

1. Consent gained from parents for images to be taken and sent via email to kidsburns@chw.edu.au (CONSENT SHEET IN APPENDIX)
2. Local registrar or referring person contacts CHW BPTC, Burns NP, or Surgical/ plastic registrar on call to talk about referral and photos coming through.
3. Images taken and sent to kidsburns@chw.edu.au with the following information. Child's name, date of birth, Medicare number, contact numbers, mode of injury & first aid.
4. Contact is then made to the referring centre with wound management advice and plan of care.
5. Photos then become part of the child's medical record at CHW.

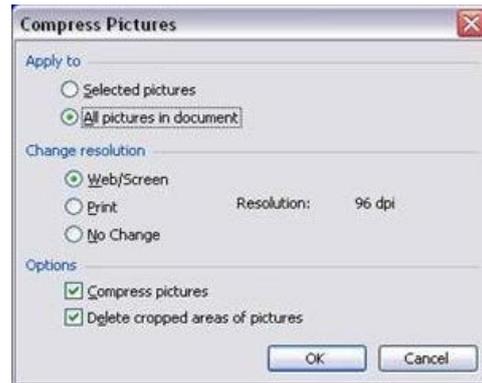
8.2 Tips for taking images

1. Dry wound bed and take photo on dry plain surface eg. Blue sheet or green theatre sheet.
2. Use something to measure the wound size by, place a measuring tape, pen or coin next to the wound
3. Use the Macro function (small flower symbol) and turn flash off
4. Take multiple photos

5. Save to computer and compress image. To do this in the picture tool bar click compress picture



- If you do not see the Picture toolbar: Click on the View menu, then select Toolbars>Picture.
- In the compress picture window make the follow selections(see below image)



References

1. NSW Severe Burn Injury Service: Burn Transfer Guidelines, 2nd ed; 2008. *NSW Health*, available via SBIS website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/burninjury>
2. Admission to CHW Policy and Procedure – CHW Intranet: <http://intranet.kids/o/documents/policies/polices/2006-8310.pdf>

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The Burns Unit, The Children's Hospital at Westmead "Kidsburns" Digital Photo Consultation Service

Please phone **02 9845 0000** (Switch board) to contact the on call **Burns Registrar** 24 hrs/day

Burns Clinic Phone - 02 9845 (Nurse Practitioner M-F 0730-1600hrs). BPTC now has a secretary so if you cannot get through on this number please call 9845 1044.

Fax - 02 9845 0546

Email – kidsburns@chw.edu.au

Thank you for your email or phone call. To make a referral to our service it is essential that you provide all the following information below, along with photograph/s (with consent). In addition to this information,

for all new referrals please also contact the Burns Registrar on call through switch on 9845 0000.

Today's date:

Date of burn:

Referring Dr/Nurse:

Institution:

E-mail address:

Contact number:

Patient's name:

Address:

DOB:

Sex:

Weight (for medications):

Allergies:

Other medical conditions:

Medicare number (so we can create a medical record no. - please include number next to patient on card and the cards expiry date):

Parent's name and contact number:

About the burn

Cause:

Was first aid given (20 min cool running water):

Where on the body is it:

What total body surface area does it involve (1% = the size of the child's hand):

Estimate of Depth (Superficial/Dermal/Full thickness):

What have you done so far:

Written consent to digital photograph: (Mandatory) YES__ NO__