

To: Professional Staff, Directors, Managers and Coordinators

From: Wayne Taylor, Director, Cardiovascular, Medicine & Renal Program
Regional Director, NW Regional Renal Program, Ontario Renal Network and
Caroline Fanti, Director Regional Surgical Services

Date: May 13, 2025

RE: **Vascular Services Referrals Form**

As of May 21st, 2025, **ALL** referrals for vascular assessment will now be received via the Cardiovascular Central Intake to be triaged to the RAVE clinic or the North of Superior Vascular Surgery offices (excluding dialysis access-related, which continue to be managed via the Renal Department at TBRHSC).

Please see the attached **NEW Vascular Services Referral Form** (FCS-490) available via the TBRHSC Print Shop. This form REPLACES the former RAVE Clinic referral form (CS-1077). The form is available from the TBRHSC Print Shop at no charge via TBRHSC.PrintShop@tbh.net.

Please remove the discontinued RAVE Clinic form from circulation in your office(s).

As always, referrals can be sent via fax to the Central Intake at 807-684-9561.

Additionally, referrals can also be completed via the **OCEAN** platform through the TBRHSC Cardiovascular Services Intake **OR** via the TBRHSC Surgical Services Intake.

As a reminder, a complete Vascular Services referral must include:

- Completed Vascular Services Referral Form
- A note including medical history
- A current medication list
- Relevant diagnostic imaging if NOT available via Sectra PACS at TBRHSC

Please also see attached Frequently Asked Questions for reference and do not hesitate to contact the Coordinator of Cardiovascular Services at (807)-684-6206 with any questions or concerns.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – TBRHSC Vascular Services Centralized Intake

Q - How do I make a referral to a vascular surgeon in NWO?

A - You can make a referral for vascular assessment in two ways:

- 1) via OCEAN using the referral form under TBRHSC Cardiovascular Services CI OR NW Endoscopy & Surgical CI, to Cardiovascular Services Central Intake
- 2) via **Vascular Services Referral Form** faxed to Cardiovascular Services Central Intake at (807) 684-9561.

Q – What referrals are included in this new Vascular Services Centralized intake?

A – Referrals for thoracic and aortic aneurysms, other aneurysms involving the arteries within the abdomen and limbs, carotid stenosis, lower extremity occlusive disease including symptoms of claudication, rest pain, chronic limb threatening ischemia, upper extremity ischemia and venous disease for varicose veins, etc.

Q – I have an urgent/emergent referral or I need a vascular surgeon's opinion, what do I do?

A – A Vascular Surgeon is on-call and available 24/7 at TBRHSC. The on-call Vascular Surgeon is available through the TBRHSC Switchboard at (807)684-6000. After discussion with the surgeon, if appropriate, please complete the **Vascular Services Referral Form** and fax to Cardiovascular Services Central Intake at (807) 684-9561.

Q – Is the RAVE (Rapid Access Vascular Exam) referral form changing?

A – There is a NEW **Vascular Services Referral Form** (FCS-490) that will be disseminated in May 2025 available through the TBRHSC Print Shop or on the TBRHSC website at <https://tbrhsc.net/programs-services/cardiovascular-sciences-program/vascular/>

The former RAVE Referral (CS-1077) has been discontinued and removed from circulation. Please update your forms stock.

Q – What is required for a referral to vascular services?

A – A complete referral includes a completed referral form (OCEAN based or faxed) AND a consult note including pertinent history and clinical information, current med list and ALL relevant imaging if not available within Sectra PACS at TBRHSC.

Q – What imaging is available in Sectra PACS at TBRHSC?

A – All imaging done at TBRHSC, Atikokan General Hospital, Dryden Regional Hospital, Riverside Health Care facilities including La Verendrye General Hospital and Rainy River Health Centre, Geraldton District Hospital, Nipigon District Memorial Hospital, North of Superior Healthcare Group including McCausland Hospital and Wilson Memorial General Hospital, Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital and Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre.

All imaging done at Superior Imaging Thunder Bay.

Q – What imaging is NOT readily available in Sectra PACS at TBRHSC (report must be included in referral package)?

A – All Imaging done at ANY private Diagnostic Imaging centre.
All diagnostic imaging done at Lake of the Woods Hospital.

Q – Does this change impact referrals for Renal/dialysis access?

A – There are **NO** changes for these services - the new Vascular Services Central Intake **EXCLUDES** all dialysis related referrals to a Vascular Surgeon. Referrals related to fistula access can **ONLY** be made by a Nephrologist via the Dialysis Access Coordinator.