



RAPID ACCESS

Coeliac Diagnostic Endoscopy

with Dr Richard Thompson, Paediatric Surgeon

Child Coeliac Diagnosis Clinic

- ✓ Rapid access
- ✓ Gold standard method of Coeliac Disease diagnosis
- ✓ Only clinic admitting under-16s on the Gold Coast and Northern NSW

Dr Richard Thompson is a specialist paediatric surgeon experienced in treating a broad range of surgical conditions in children.

Dr Thompson is the only doctor offering endoscopy on the Gold Coast and Northern NSW to under-16s to diagnose coeliac disease.

Coeliac Disease Diagnosis

Blood tests are the usual first step for screening for coeliac disease, but to confirm such an important diagnosis with lifelong consequences it is recommended that an endoscopy is performed to obtain a small bowel biopsy.

An endoscopy may also diagnose alternative conditions that can present with similar symptoms. Both the blood tests and endoscopy rely on the presence of gluten in the diet to give a meaningful result. It is important the patient is on gluten for at least four weeks before the endoscopy to avoid false negative result.

This service allows for quicker access and diagnosis, reducing the time a

patient is exposed to gluten and the subsequent uncomfortable symptoms.

Dr Thompson has introduced a rapid access service avoiding the lengthy delay of coeliac diagnosis and unnecessarily prolonging the time a patient has to remain on gluten. General practitioners and their paediatricians can now refer children directly for endoscopy after a positive screening blood test for coeliac disease.

If the diagnosis of coeliac disease is confirmed then the patients would be referred back to their paediatrician for ongoing monitoring of growth, nutrition and disease surveillance.

To arrange an appointment please contact:

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Gold Coast Private Hospital
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goldcoastprivate.com.au



For more information refer to "Testing and diagnosis of coeliac disease in children" on the **Coeliac Australia** website.