This is a recommended communication algorithm that applies to the unique situation in which a patient is referred to the ED following a verbal communication between the patients’ primary care provider (PCP) and one or more CT Children’s subspecialists.

**PCP Referral Process to ED in Collaboration with Subspecialists**

**PREFERRED COMMUNICATION SEQUENCE**

PCP contacts medical or surgical subspecialist to discuss a patient concern:

- **Point of initiation:** Subspecialist recommends patient be referred to ED for further evaluation

  Subspecialist informs PCP to expect an evaluation **by the ED physician** with input from the subspecialist as needed

  PCP is responsible for informing families that subspecialist will be contacted ONLY if determined necessary after ED evaluation

  Subspecialist verbally communicates with ED physician **prior** to patient arrival in ED

  Patient presents to ED and is evaluated by ED physician*

  Does the ED physician require further input from the subspecialist?
  - **Yes**
    - Subspecialist evaluates patient in the ED and makes determination regarding admission or discharge
    - Subspecialist contacts PCP regarding patient
  - **No**
    - Patient discharged
      - ED physician contacts PCP regarding patient, if requested
      - If admitted to subspecialist service, further evaluation will be performed

*In certain cases, the PCP can request and the subspecialist can agree to perform the initial/primary assessment of the patient in the ED. This decision must be communicated to the ED **prior** to the patient arriving in the ED.