

REFERRAL GUIDELINES BREAST CANCER SERVICE



The appropriate pathway for new or suspected breast cancer patients is through Outpatients. Patients being referred for suspected cancer are considered urgent referrals. See more information about cancer referral processes [here](#).

Only if you are concerned about IMMEDIATE patient safety and management, refer the patient to the Emergency Department or contact the Breast Surgical or Oncology Registrar on 8345 6666.

Include details from the following categories (if relevant) in addition to standard referral information. Please include as much detail as possible to assist us to accurately triage the referral and to prioritise urgent appointments.

REFER TO

FAX to 8345 6856.

For suspected/new early breast cancer, refer to Breast Surgery Clinic.

Known metastatic breast cancer should be referred to Breast Oncology Clinic.

DESCRIBE



Patient presentation

- Presenting problem
- Duration of symptoms
- Impact on patient
- Diagnosis or provisional diagnosis, if known
- Management to date
- Referral purpose

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INCLUDE IF PRESENT

Signs, symptoms, and duration

- Breast lump or mass
- Changes in breast shape or size
- Nipple discharge that occurs without squeezing
- Other nipple changes
- Skin changes on breast
- Axillary mass or palpable axillary lymph nodes
- Breast pain
- Weight loss

Relevant past medical history

Family history of breast, ovarian or other cancer

Symptoms or signs to suggest metastatic disease

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PROVIDE

Provide relevant breast images on film/disk + copy of report

- Ultrasound
- Bilateral mammogram if patient is > 35 years of age

Please instruct the patient to bring breast imaging films/disk to their clinic appointment.

Please note, digital images cannot be accessed by the WH IT platform.

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LIST

Dates and results of any past and future bookings for any other relevant investigations which are not included in the above section.

For general enquires, the WH breast care nursing team can be contacted on 83456896 during business hours Monday to Friday.

Click [here](#) for more information about referral processes for cancer services.

Click [here](#) to view the Breast Optimal Care Pathway.

Click [here](#) to be directed to Melbourne HealthPathways for guidance in assessing, managing and referring patients with suspected breast cancer.