

WESTERN HEALTH CANCER SERVICES REFERRAL PROCEDURES

The correct referral pathway into Western Health for new or suspicious cancers is as follows:

<u>IMMEDIATE</u>

- Patient presents with RED FLAGS. Click here to view RED FLAGS for cancer types.
- Referrer is concerned about immediate patient management only.
- Direct patient to the Emergency Department (ED) and ring Admitting Officer to discuss patient OR
- Contact the relevant registrar (see below) for advice about patient management.

URGENT

Patient presents with NEW or SUSPICIOUS cancer diagnosis.

- Refer patient to the appropriate outpatient clinic as per process outlined below.
- Contact the relevant registrar for advice if required.

Referring these patients to ED will not result in a faster appointment.

STEP 1

Referral faxed to Western Health Outpatients. Fax number 8345 6856.

Referrals should be addressed to a named clinician in the appropriate outpatient clinic.

Referrals need to include the required clinical information as per the referral guidelines (currently available for Breast and Lung cancer streams only).

STEP 2

The referral is triaged according to clinical urgency.

Patients who are being referred for suspected cancer are considered URGENT referrals.

STEP 3

Patients with urgent conditions are scheduled to be seen as soon as possible but within a 30 day timeframe.

If the patient is required to be seen within 10 business days, they will be contacted by telephone to make an appointment. Otherwise an appointment letter will be sent by mail.

The referrer will be notified when the appointment has been made.

CONTACTS

Registrars - contact via switch on 8345 6666

Breast Surgical Colorectal Surgical Gynaecological Haematology 1 4 1 Oncology Palliative Care

Thoracics or Respiratory (Lung) Upper Gastrointestinal Surgical

Urology (Genito-Urinary)

Care nurses:

Breast Care Nurses – 8345 6896, BCN@wh.org.au Gynae Clinical Coordinator - 8345 0633 Prostate Care Nurse - 0411 853 290

More information requirements for referral to Western Health specialist clinics can be found here.