

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Breast Oncology Clinic at Western Health:

Western Health provides a multi-disciplinary Breast Cancer Service for patients who require management of breast cancer. The specialist team of medical oncologists, breast surgeons, radiation oncologists, radiologists, palliative care physicians, breast care nurses and pathologists work together to provide an integrated and comprehensive service.

Conditions not seen by the Breast Oncology Clinic at Western Health:

- Patients with a new diagnosis (or suspected diagnosis) of breast cancer should be referred directly to the Surgical Breast Clinic for initial management
- Patients with other non-cancer like breast symptoms may be appropriate for the Surgical Breast Clinic
- Patients without breast cancer but with a high risk of breast cancer/strong family history should be referred to Royal Melbourne Hospital or Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre High Risk/Familial Cancer Clinic. Western Health does not have a high-risk clinic. See <https://www.cancervic.org.au/cancer-information/genetics-and-risk/family-cancer-centres>

Access & Referral Priority Breast Oncology Clinic:

URGENT	ROUTINE
Appointment timeframe 30 days	Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known, metastatic breast cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to specialist clinics, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations:
Known, metastatic breast cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of presenting symptoms & clinical findings • Details of previous treatment & location of treatment if known (surgical, radiation, chemotherapy, hormonal, etc.) • Current medication list 	<p>Reports of any recent imaging – mammogram and CT scans</p> <p>patient to bring relevant imaging films/disc to their clinic appointment, if available</p>