

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Colorectal Oncology Service at Western Health:

Western Health runs a multi-disciplinary Colorectal Cancer Service which is actively involved in clinical trials. We have a specialist team of colorectal surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, palliative care physicians and pathologists working together to provide an integrated and comprehensive service.

Alarm Symptoms:

The following alarm symptoms should trigger an immediate referral to an Emergency Department:

- Symptoms of bowel obstruction
- Large volume peri-rectal bleeding

Access & Referral Priority Colorectal Oncology Clinic:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

URGENT Appointment timeframe 30 days	ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any patient with symptoms or investigations indicating a suspicion of colorectal cancer	

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:
New or suspected diagnosis of colorectal cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptoms and signs indicating a suspicion of colorectal cancer.• Past medical and surgical history• Current medication list• Details of family history of colorectal breast or prostate cancer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FBE• LFT If ordered/undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tumor markers• Colonoscopy and biopsy reports• CT scan reports of chest, abdo, pelvis• Patient to bring imaging films/disc to their clinic appointment.