

General Internal Medicine Specialist Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health provides a Specialist Clinic for patients who require assessment and management of general medical conditions. Patients are triaged by General Internal Medicine Specialists into management pathways according to specific clinical requirements

Conditions seen by General Internal Medicine specialists at Western Health:

- Patients with three or more active medical problems
- Patients with complex problems for which there is no clear specialist focus

Conditions not seen by General Internal Medicine specialists at Western Health:

- Patients with a single medical condition (for example, hypercholesterolaemia, hypertension) without other comorbidities or complicating factors. *Please refer to the Health Pathways Melbourne for information on management of these conditions*
- Patients needing long-term specialist management for chronic conditions. *We provide an assessment and development of initial management plan. We can provide advice and support for onward referral for long-term care if necessary.*
- Patients acutely unwell at high risk of clinical deterioration within a week. *These patients should be discussed with the Emergency Department.*

Alarm Symptoms:

If a patient experiences any new, acute symptoms listed below they should present to the Emergency Department:

- Chest Pain
- Breathlessness
- Cough
- Confusion
- Seizures
- Speech difficulties
- Fever
- Weakness (generalised or localised)
- Other symptoms with high risk of rapid clinical deterioration



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.

Please include all relevant investigations already completed for the patient.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations:
Cardiac failure	Symptom duration, functional impact, previous specialist management, previous cardiac procedures/surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Echocardiogram CXR (if available) FBE, UEC, iron studies
Breathlessness	Symptom duration, functional impact, previous specialist management, previous surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirometry +/- gas transfer, CXR, CT chest (if available) Echocardiogram (if available) FBE, UEC
Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptom duration, functional impact, previous investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBE, UEF, LFT, iron studies, B12, TFT, ESR, Vitamin D
Weight loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptom duration, fevers/sweats, documented weight, dietary history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBE, UEC, LFT, TFT, B12, Vitamin D, ESR, iron studies, CXR Any chest/abdominal imaging (if available) Any endoscopy reports (if available)

