

General Oncology Cancer Service at Western Health:

Western Health provides a General Oncology Cancer Service. This service is specifically for patients with cancers not managed by the other more specific cancer clinics and for patients for whom the primary cancer is not known. Patients diagnosed with a cancer of a specific tumour stream are referred onto the appropriate specialist oncology clinic.

Conditions not seen by the specialist team at General Oncology Cancer Service:

- Patients with, or suspected of having, a localised cancer. These patients should be referred to the appropriate tumour specific surgeons.
- Patients with symptoms such as weight loss without imaging or pathology to suggest malignancy.

Conditions that require direct referral to an Emergency Department:

Where there are concerns about immediate patient safety and management.

Access & Referral Priority for General Oncology Cancer Service:

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.
<p>Any patient with imaging or pathology indicating a suspicion or diagnosis of metastatic cancer when the primary tumour is not clear.</p> <p>Patients with a suspected or known metastatic cancer when there is no tumour specific cancer clinic at Western Health.</p>	NA

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to outpatients, 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
<p>Any patient with imaging or pathology indicating a suspicion or diagnosis of metastatic cancer when the primary tumour is not clear.</p> <p>Patients with a suspected or known metastatic cancer when there is no tumour specific cancer clinic at Western Health.</p>	<p>Clinical symptoms and examination findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant past medical history • Current medication • Family History 	<p>Investigations ordered as part of patient work up.</p> <p>If available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histopathology results • Endoscopy reports