

Monash Health Referral Guidelines

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

EXCLUSIONS

Services not offered by Monash Health Oncology

- Lymphoma, Leukemia and blood disorders: please refer to [Haematology](#)
- Patients requiring surgery for cancer: refer to [subspecialty surgical service](#)
- Sarcoma: refer to [Peter Mac Cancer Centre](#) centralised sarcoma service
- Radiation Oncology: please direct referral to [Peter Mac Radiation Oncology](#)
- Familial Cancer/Cancer genetics: please refer to [Familial Cancer Centre](#)
- Brain cancer (neurooncology): please refer to [Monash Health Neurology](#)
- Patients requiring symptom control only: refer to local Community Palliative Care service or Monash Health Oncopain clinics
- Routine second opinions are not offered
- Patients not aware of diagnosis or likely diagnosis (without explanation)
- Patients not in Monash Health catchment if alternate service is available
- Consultations cannot occur without the patient present
- Sick patients requiring acute hospitalisation are not suitable for outpatient referral
- Patients under 18 years of age: [Click here](#) for Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre guidelines

SERVICES

[Suspected or known malignancy](#)

[Cancer clinical trials](#)

[Transfer from another cancer service](#)

[Geriatric oncology](#)

[Cancer survivorship](#)

PRIORITY

All referrals received are triaged by **Monash Health Head of Oncology** to determine urgency of referral.

EMERGENCY

For emergency cases please:

- Contact the on call Oncology registrar or consultant
- Send patient to Emergency Department (complete step 1 prior)
- Phone 000 to arrange immediate transfer to ED

URGENT

The patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly with significant consequences for health and quality of life if not managed promptly.

ROUTINE

- The patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if the specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month
- Transfer from another cancer service
- New non-urgent problem in a patient known to our cancer service

Last updated:
October 2024

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MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

REFERRAL

How to refer to
Monash Health
Oncology

Mandatory referral content for all Oncology referrals

Demographics:

Full name
Date of birth
Next of kin
Postal address (not PO Box)
Contact number
Mobile number
Email address
Medicare number
Referring GP details
 including **provider number**
Usual GP (if different)
Details of all medical specialists
Interpreter requirements

Clinical:

Specific reason for referral
Past medical history
Current medications
Allergies
Psychosocial history

****[All correspondence and test results relating to cancer \(or indicate if at Monash Health\) including original histopathology reports](#)**

****[Tumour specific details according to type of cancer](#)**



[Click here](#) to download the outpatient referral form

CONTACT US **Medical practitioners**

To discuss complex & urgent referrals contact on call Oncology registrar or consultant via main switchboard: (03) 9594 6666

REFERRAL

How to refer to
Monash Health

Secure eReferral by HealthLink is now our preferred method of referral.

Find up-to-date information about how to send a referral to Monash Health on the [eReferrals page on our website](#).

SUSPECTED OR KNOWN MALIGNANCY

SUSPECTED OR KNOWN MALIGNANCY

WHEN TO REFER?

Initial Work Up

- Refer as soon as widespread cancer appears likely
- There is no requirement to have a tissue diagnosis - we will organise the appropriate investigations and biopsies
- If tests have been ordered, please send **ALL results with referral, including histopathology and imaging results**

Management Options for GP

- Please include tumour specific details according to type of cancer as patients will be triaged to tumour specific clinics
- Please indicate if patient has suspected but not proven malignancy.

Emergency

Contact Oncology registrar or Consultant through switchboard to discuss: (03) 9594 6666

Urgent

- Newly diagnosed cancer
- Suspected disseminated or locally advanced cancer
- New, urgent problem in known patient - please specify and include all relevant tests
- Patients will be seen in the relevant cancer clinic - please [see Oncology Monash Health website](#) for details.

Routine

- Continued care of known patient
- New non-urgent problem in known patient – please specify and include all relevant tests
- Patients whose care is being fully transferred from another Oncologist

[BACK](#)

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

Monash Health has an extensive clinical trials program, suitable for patients with many types of tumours. Cancer trials are considered standard of care.

Initial Work Up

N/A

Management Options for GP

- For a list of current clinical trials, please see Monash Health Oncology website or [click here](#).

WHEN TO REFER?

Note: All patients will be considered for a clinical trial as per standard of care and where appropriate, may be contacted to discuss this option. Patients may be offered an appointment in the Clinical Trials Centre, Monash Medical Centre to discuss further

[BACK](#)

TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER CANCER SERVICE OR CARE PROVIDER

TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER CANCER SERVICE OR CARE PROVIDER WHEN TO REFER?

Initial Work Up

- All correspondence, treatment summaries, original histopathology report, all molecular testing, all imaging results.
- Patient's GP and all relevant practitioners details
- Reason for transfer needs to be clearly stated
- Time frame (note that patients not already with a cancer provider will be prioritised ahead of transferring patients)
- Patients who have received anti-cancer therapy need to have a clear treatment summary
- Transfer request to continue current therapy must include all details of treatment eg chemotherapy chart

Routine

Patients whose care is being fully transferred from another Oncologist

Management Options for GP

N/A

[BACK](#)

GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY SERVICE

GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY SERVICE

WHEN TO REFER?

Presentation

- Any patient >65 years with known or suspected service with multiple comorbidities, psychosocial issues, carer issues
- Younger patients with similar issues and poor functional status can also be referred

Initial Work Up

- There is no requirement to have a tissue diagnosis - we will organise the appropriate investigations and biopsies
- If tests/consultations/treatment has been undertaken, ordered, please send ALL information, including histopathology, imaging and all specialist and other correspondence

Management Options for GP

- Geriatric Oncology provides a comprehensive geriatric assessment and referral to appropriate services.
- Patients may be assessed and then returned to care of primary cancer service provider (1-2 visits only) or accepted for ongoing care and serial review
- Further details about the service- see [Monash Health Oncology](#)
- Please include details specific to Geriatric Oncology

Emergency

Contact Oncology registrar or Consultant through switchboard to discuss: (03) 9594 6666

Urgent

- Newly diagnosed cancer
- Suspected disseminated or locally advanced cancer
- New, urgent problem in known patient - please specify and include all relevant tests
- Patients will be seen in the relevant cancer clinic - please [see Oncology Monash Health website](#) for details.

Routine

- Continued care of known patient
- New non-urgent problem in known patient – please specify and include all relevant tests
- Patients whose care is being fully transferred from another Oncologist

[BACK](#)

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP SERVICE

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP SERVICE

WHEN TO REFER?

Note: Referrals not currently accepted for this service

Under development during 2019

[BACK](#)