

Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

MELANOMA

Please fax referrals to the Victorian Melanoma Service on 9076 8500. [The Alfred Specialist Clinics Referral Form](#) is available to print and fax. Where appropriate and available, the referral may be directed to an alternative specialist clinic or service.

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

Notification will be sent when the referral is received. The referral may be declined if it does not contain essential information required for triage, if the condition is not appropriate for referral to a public hospital, or is a condition not routinely seen at Alfred Health.

The following conditions are not routinely seen at Alfred Health:

- Routine skin checks are only provided for high risk patients eg immunosuppression
- Children under 18 years of age are not seen at the Alfred (exception for Lung Transplant patients)
- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital

Please include in the referral:

Demographic details:

- Date of birth
- Patient's contact details including mobile phone number
- Referring GP details
- If an interpreter is required
- Medicare number

Clinical information:

- Reason for referral
- Histopathology report
- Relevant pathology & imaging reports (including photos where appropriate)
- Past medical history including duration and response to previous treatment
- Current medications

Some clinics offer private consultations in public rooms. If the patient chooses to be seen as a private patient, **please provide a referral to a named specialist** to comply with MBS billing requirements. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Please note the patient may be seen by another consultant in that clinic to expedite their care. The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

If there is a concern about the delay of the appointment, any deterioration in the patient's condition, or if an urgent specialist opinion is required, please contact the Dermatology Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

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GENERAL MELANOMA CLINIC

Melanoma or suspected metastatic melanoma

If histologically proven melanoma, refer urgently to the Victorian Melanoma Service – phone 9076 0365 or 0427 399 023 to discuss the referral.

Contact the Dermatology registrar on call to arrange an urgent appointment if:

- Suspected melanoma
- High risk patients eg immunosuppressed

Criteria for referral to the [Victorian Melanoma Service](#) General Clinic:

- Histologically confirmed melanoma
- Suspected / confirmed metastatic disease
- Histologically confirmed Merkel cell carcinoma
- Nail lesions suspicious for melanoma

Information to be included in the referral:

- Please include the essential [demographic details and clinical information](#) in the referral.
- Type of lesion
- Speed of growth
- If immunosuppressed
- High quality images and/or dermoscopy (to determine urgency priority and confirm site)
- Histopathology if available

Fax referrals to (03) 9076 8500 or email melanomaservice@alfred.org.au
Phone 9076 0365 or 0427 399 023

Additional comments:

Please include the essential [demographic details and clinical information](#) in the referral.

Where appropriate and available, the referral may be directed to an alternative specialist clinic or service.

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MELANOMA

MINOR PROCEDURES CLINIC

Skin cancer or suspected skin cancer – NEEDING BIOPSY OR REMOVAL

If histologically proven melanoma, refer urgently to the Victorian Melanoma Service – phone 9076 0365 or 0427 399 023 to discuss the referral.

Contact the Dermatology registrar on call to arrange an urgent appointment if:

- Suspected melanoma
- High risk patients eg immunosuppressed

Criteria for referrals:

- Suspected melanoma if diagnostic concern and diagnostic biopsy is beyond GP skill level (clinical +/- dermoscopic photos must accompany referral to enable appropriate triage)

Exclusions:

- Biopsy proven complex and/or large tumours likely to require flaps or grafts should be referred to [Plastic Surgery](#)

Refer to the [Victorian Melanoma Service](#) General Clinic if:

- Histologically confirmed melanoma
- Suspected or confirmed metastatic melanoma
- Nail lesions suspicious for melanoma
- Fax referrals to (03) 9076 5799 or email melanomaservice@alfred.org.au
- Phone 9076 0365 or 0427 399 023

Information to be included in the referral:

- Type of lesion
- Speed of growth
- If immunosuppressed
- High quality images and/or dermoscopy (to determine urgency priority and confirm site)
- Histopathology if available

Additional comments:

Please include the essential [demographic details and clinical information](#) in the referral.

Where appropriate and available, the referral may be directed to an alternative specialist clinic or service.