

# Sandringham Acute General Surgery Unit Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

**The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in high demand for specialist clinic consultations. If there is a concern about the delay of the appointment, or any deterioration in the patient's condition, please send an updated referral with additional information.**

**If the patient's care needs have become urgent, please call the unit registrar on call on 9076 2000.**

**Please fax your referral to The Alfred Specialist Clinics on 9076 6938, or fax your referral directly to the Sandringham Specialist Clinics on 9076 1252. [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 your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment. You will be notified when your referral is received. Your referral may be declined if it does not contain essential information required for triage, or 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 Sandringham Specialist Consulting Clinics:**

- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital
- Surgical consultation for children under 18 years of age
- Patients who are at high anaesthetic risk
- Patients with BMI >40

**Please note patients with a high anaesthetic risk may be referred to The Alfred for further management.**

**Sandringham Hospital offers general surgery for conditions including:**

- Excision of skin and subcutaneous lesions (including lipomas, cysts, ganglia and skin cancers)
- Carpal tunnel release (please arrange nerve conduction study prior to referral)
- Hernias (including abdominal, groin and major ventral hernias)
- Gallbladder surgery
- Colorectal surgery in patients without significant comorbidities, including colectomy, stomas and stoma reversal
- Haemorrhoids, pilonidal sinus, anal fissures and anal fistulas

Please see the following referral guidelines for more referral information for these conditions.

[Breast and Endocrine Surgery \(BES\)](#)

[Colorectal Surgery \(CRS\)](#)

[Hepato Pancreatico Biliary service \(HPB\)](#)

[Oesophago-gastric and Bariatric Surgery service \(OGB\)](#)

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Please include in your referral:

Demographic details:	Clinical information:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date of birth</li><li>• Patient's contact details including mobile phone number</li><li>• Referring GP details</li><li>• If an interpreter is required</li><li>• Medicare number</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reason for referral</li><li>• Duration of symptoms</li><li>• Relevant pathology and imaging reports</li><li>• Past medical history</li><li>• Current medications</li></ul>

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 you are concerned about the delay of the outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient's condition, or if you require an urgent specialist opinion, please contact the General Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 1000.**