

St Vincent's Hospital General Medicine Referral Guidelines

In order to efficiently triage referrals, please include the following essential information in your referral:

Patient's Demographic information:

- Full name
- Date of Birth
- Contact details and address
- Medicare Number/Overseas patient health insurance status
- Indigenous status
- Interpreter requirements

Clinical information:

- Specialty and Head of Unit to whom patient is referred
- Reason for referral
- Management to date
- Medical history
- Relevant diagnostic results
- Allergies
- Current medications
- Name of referring doctor including provider number, practice name and contact details

By having all relevant information, the triage teams will be able to determine the most appropriate service for your patient and arrange a timely appointment.

General Medicine

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition/Symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigations PRIOR TO referral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected triage outcome
<p>1. Complex Patients with multiple medical problems for investigation and/or management</p>	<p>Please include Investigations relevant to the condition and up to date</p>	<p>Referrals will be triaged as: Urgent – within 30 days or Routine – next available. The timing will be determined by the information provided in the referral letter</p>
<p>2. Patients with Undifferentiated Symptoms for Diagnostic assistance and/or Management</p> <p>For example: unexplained weight loss or dizziness/fainting or fatigue</p>	<p>Please include investigations relevant to the condition and up to date</p>	<p>Referrals will be triaged as: Urgent – within 30 days or Routine – next available. The timing of which will be determined by the information provided in the referral letter</p>

<p>3. HF Management In older comorbid patients with refractory Heart Failure</p>	<p>Please include investigations relevant to the condition and up to date Include TTE if already performed</p>	<p>Referrals will be triaged as: Urgent – within 30 days or Routine – next available. The timing of which will be determined by the information provided in the referral letter</p>
<p>4. Hypertension – Poorly controlled or severe</p>	<p>A comprehensive referral is required which details all investigations and medications, treatments etc. in order to effectively triage the severity of the patient's condition</p>	<p>Referrals will be triaged as: Urgent – within 30 days or Routine – next available. The timing of which will be determined by the information provided in the referral letter</p>
<p>5. Consideration of an Iron Infusion and/or investigation of iron deficiency Anaemia</p>	<p>Requires FBE and Fe studies (iron, Transferrin, Transferrin saturation and ferritin) within 6 weeks of referral. Please also include management to date, investigations of anaemia undertaken, previous infusions, previous reactions to IV iron preparation.</p>	<p>Referrals will be triaged as: Urgent – within 30 days or Routine – next available. The timing of which will be determined by the information provided in the referral letter</p>

- Consider whether a patient with single organ pathology may be more appropriate for a Specialist Clinic
- Consider referral to Geriatric Clinics for patients with:
[Impaired Mobility and falls, Memory loss, Bladder and bowel dysfunction and Complex Pain Management](#)

If you are concerned about the delay of an outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient's condition. Please call Specialist Clinics GP Hotline on 92312898

If you require an urgent Specialist opinion, please contact the General Medicine Registrar on Call via switchboard on 92312211