

Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Unit Pre-Referral Guidelines

Condition	Required Investigations	Referral Pathway
COPD	Respiratory function tests (Spirometry). These can be arranged through the Department of Respiratory Medicine	Refer to Respiratory Specialist Clinic
Asthma	Spirometry	Refer to Respiratory Specialist Clinic
Chronic cough > 8 weeks	Radiology reports must be included with referral. Patient must have hard copy films or a CD of any current radiology (reports without actual images will delay the patient's assessment). List of medications and inhaled therapy already tried.	Request urgent appointment in Respiratory Specialist Clinic or consider Emergency Department referral if any <u>red flag symptoms</u> including: haemoptysis, new onset breathlessness, stridor, suspected TB, chest pain
Sleep apnoea	Detailed list of other medical problems and current medications must be included with the referral form to allow prioritisation of referrals. Complete Epworth Sleepiness Score	Refer to Privatised Sleep Clinic via FAX: 9231 3138 or Respiratory Specialist Clinic if interpreter services required. Request urgent appointment if recent history of fall-asleep motor vehicle accident. NB: There is no direct referral for sleep studies without prior assessment by a sleep physician.
Home oxygen referral	If requesting an assessment for home oxygen: <u>Arterial blood gases</u> (arrange via Pathology provider) and <u>6 minute walk test</u> - arrange through Department of Respiratory Medicine	Refer to Respiratory Specialist Clinic
Suspected lung cancer or suspicious lung nodules on CT chest	The patient must bring either <u>hard copy images or a CD</u> of any current and previous chest radiology to the first appointment. Providing reports alone without images may significantly delay the patient's assessment.	For urgent triage of referrals involving suspected lung cancer only: FAX referral to: 9231 3138 Phone Respiratory registrar via switchboard: 9231 2211 or Lung Cancer Nurse: 9231 3325