

# REFERRAL GUIDELINES

## GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC

**Referral Form:** The GP Referral Template located within the Mastercare Referralnet system is the preferred referral tool – [GP Referral Template \(link\)](#)

### Clinic overview:

The Gastroenterology Outpatient Clinic sees patients with general gastroenterological and liver conditions.

### Categories for Appointment

	Clinical Description	Timeframe for Appt
Category 1 – Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong suspicion of cancer</li> <li>• Obstructive or unexplained cholestatic jaundice</li> <li>• Chronic GI bleeding                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Iron deficiency anaemia</li> <li>○ Occult GI bleeding (including positive FOBT)</li> <li>○ Unexplained rectal bleeding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Severe inflammatory bowel disease</li> <li>• Suspected malabsorption, unexplained weight loss</li> <li>• Altered bowel habits with alarm symptoms</li> <li>• Progressive or obstructive dysphagia</li> <li>• Decompensating liver disease, suspected chronic liver disease or moderate to severe abnormal LFTs</li> <li>• Dyspepsia with alarm symptoms</li> </ul>	< 30 days
Category 2 – Routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altered bowel habits                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No alarm symptoms</li> <li>○ Normal lab results</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Irritable bowel syndrome</li> <li>• Constipation</li> <li>• Hepatitis B and C</li> <li>• Haemochromatosis</li> </ul>	> 30 days

### IMPORTANT:

The following information is mandatory:

#### Referral:

- Date of referral
- Duration of referral
- Speciality
- Named practitioner
- Referring practitioner name
- Referrers signature

#### Patient Demographic:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Next of kin
- Postal address
- Contact numbers
- Medicare number

#### Clinical:

- Reason for referral
- Duration of symptoms
- Management to date
- Past medical history
- Current medications
- Diagnostics as per referral guidelines

**X-ray results/reports must be within the last 6 mths**

#### HEAD CLINICIAN

Dr Richard La Nauze

#### HEAD OF UNIT

Dr David Badov

#### OUTPATIENT ENQUIRIES

P: (03) 9784 2600

F: (03) 9788 1879

Review: January 2019

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyspepsia or reflux with no alarm symptoms</li> <li>• Mild abnormal liver function tests</li> <li>• Family history of colorectal cancer</li> <li>• Previous history of colonic polyps for surveillance</li> <li>• Chronic abdominal pain</li> </ul>	
Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute gastrointestinal tract haemorrhage (haematemesis and/or melaena and/or haematochezia)</li> <li>• Bloody diarrhoea with signs of dehydration</li> <li>• Suspected acute, severe or fulminant hepatic failure</li> <li>• Severe hepatitis with jaundice</li> <li>• Symptomatic marked ascites or new onset of ascites</li> <li>• Suspected cholangitis</li> <li>• Moderate / severe pancreatitis</li> </ul>	Present to Emergency Department

### Eligibility Criteria

- All adult residents within Peninsula Health geographical area

### Exclusions

- Patients outside the geographically catchment area for Peninsula Health
- Children (< 18 years old)

### Specific Minimum Clinical Referral Information

- Clinical details and reason for referral
- Relevant medical history
- Results of all recent and relevant investigations
- Medications
- Allergies

**Please include copies of any relevant test results to enable appropriate triaging (eg/ Faecal occult blood test – National Bowel Cancer Screening Program). Referrals with incomplete / insufficient information to enable triaging may be rejected until this information has been received.**

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- Monday 1300 – 1700
- The referral will be triaged by the consultant prior to the patient being contacted by Outpatients staff with appointment details
- All patients require a referral from a Specialist or General Practitioner
- We aim to see patients within the above timeframes; however, due to limited new patient referral places the wait times maybe significantly longer

### Alternative referral options

- There can be a significant wait for new non-urgent patients to be seen in the clinic. Please consider if the patient can be referred to the private rooms of specialists affiliated with Frankston Hospital (see Specialist Directory).

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