

REFERRAL GUIDELINES

PLASTIC SURGERY CLINIC

Referral Form: The GP Referral Template located within the Mastercare Referralnet system is the preferred referral tool

Clinic overview:

This clinic is for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Below is a guideline of approximate wait times for your patient to be seen.

Categories for Appointment

	Clinical Description	Timeframe for Appt
Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed hand fractures • Closed tendon ruptures • Lacerations with possible nerve injury • Trigger finger with finger locked in flexion • Skin cancers that are extremely large, fungating and bleeding or ulcerated • Leg ulcers if infected (cellulitis) 	Within 1 week
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of patients with postoperative complications if within 12 months of their surgery at Peninsula Health • Biopsy proven Malignant Melanoma or Squamous cell Carcinoma • Immediate Breast Reconstruction (in conjunction with mastectomy for breast cancer) 	Within 2-4 weeks
Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Skin Cancers (BCC's) – biopsy proven • Carpal Tunnel Syndrome with severe pain and permanent dysthaesia in fingers • Leg ulcers 	Within 3 months

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

Biopsy, Nerve Conduction Studies & X-ray results/reports ideally be within the last 6 mths

HEAD OF UNIT

Ms Patricia Terrill

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Mr Peter Evans

OUTPATIENT ENQUIRIES

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Category 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Hand conditions e.g. Ganglion, Trigger Finger, DeQuervains, congenital deformities, benign tumours Wrist arthritis including basal joint and ulnar sided wrist pain Carpal Tunnel with intermittent symptoms Delayed Breast Reconstruction Breast implant rupture with silicone into surrounding tissues 	3-12 months
Category 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scar revision Breast Reduction Ruptured or severe encapsulation of breast implants (removal only) Abdominoplasty Prominent Ears Upper Blepharoplasty with visual obstruction (reduction in visual fields confirmed by optometrist or ophthalmologist) Benign skin lesions (naevi, lipoma) 	<p>There will be a long wait (> 12 months) to be seen and patients will need to fulfil government requirements to be treated in a public hospital – Guidelines are available at:</p> <p>www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/appendix-1-aesthetic-procedures-and-indications-for-surgery</p>
Emergency Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compound Fracture Ischaemic limb or digit Contaminated wound Bite injuries Complex wound (Nerve, tendon muscle, bone, joint injury) Infection (cellulitis/abscess) Wound infection 	<p>Immediate via Emergency Department</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Please call Plastics Registrar on-call via Switchboard on 9784 7777</p>
Dupuytren's Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be referred to special Dupuytren's Clinic 	See other clinic requirements

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Eligibility Criteria

All patients require a referral from a Specialist or General Practitioner.

We will aim to get patients seen within the above timeframes; however, due to limited new patient referral places in Outpatients the wait times may be significantly longer. If your patient's condition is significantly deteriorating and they have not been seen please contact the Outpatients Clinic to try to expedite the appointment.

Possible malignant soft tissue tumour e.g. Sarcoma – refer to St Vincent's sarcoma service

Alternative Referral options

New referrals may also be made directly to the rooms of Plastic Surgeons affiliated with Frankston Hospital (see Specialist Directory) who will then place the patient directly on the public surgical waiting list at Frankston Hospital if surgery is required. Breast and abdominal aesthetic surgery must be seen in the outpatient clinic prior to being placed on the waiting list.
Refer to Private Services

Clinic information

Clinics are held Monday AM, Tuesday PM, Wednesday PM & Thursday AM

Outpatients Department – Integrated Health Centre – Hastings Road, Frankston
Phone: 9784 2600 / Fax: 9788 1879
Electronic referrals preferred

Minimum Clinical Information Required

- Clinical details and reason for referral
- Relevant medical history
- Allergies
- Results of all recent and relevant investigations
- Symptomatic history
- Possible diagnosis and/or injury
- Date of Injury
- Treatment instituted so far
- Medications
- Results of all recent (preferably within prior 6 months) investigations
 - Biopsy Reports with photograph or diagram of biopsy site
 - Nerve Conduction Studies for suspected Carpel Tunnel Syndrome or Ulnar Nerve Compression
 - Xrays if arthritis / fractures
 - Ultrasound if suspected ganglion or mass

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