

REFERRAL GUIDELINES: INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Essential Referral Content

Demographic	Clinical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of birth • Contact details (including mobile phone) • Referring GP details • Interpreter requirements • Medicare number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason for referral • Duration of symptoms • Relevant pathology & imaging reports • Past medical history • Current medications

The Alfred Outpatient Referral Form is available to print and fax to the Infectious Diseases Clinic on 9076 6938



Exclusion Criteria

The following conditions are not routinely seen at the Alfred:

- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital
- Children under 18 years of age are not seen at The Alfred

If pulmonary tuberculosis is suspected, contact the Infectious Diseases Registrar on call IMMEDIATELY on 9076 2000 for containment purposes prior to sending patient to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.

REFERRAL PROCESS: INFECTIOUS DISEASES



STEP 1

You will be notified when your referral is received by outpatients. Essential referral content will be checked and you may be contacted for further information if required.



STEP 2

The referral is triaged by the specialist unit according to clinical urgency. This determines how long the patient will wait for an appointment.



STEP 3

Patients with **urgent** conditions are scheduled to be seen within 30 days. Patients with **routine** conditions are given the next available appointment according to clinical need. Both the referrer and patient are notified.

Some clinics offer an MBS-billed service. **There is no out of pocket expense to the patient.** MBS-billed services require a current referral to a named specialist– please provide your patient with a **12 month referral addressed to the specialist of your choice.** Please note that your patient may be seen by another specialist in that clinic, in order to expedite their treatment.

Please note: 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, please contact the Infectious Diseases Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

REFERRAL PRIORITY: **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

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.

<p>IMMEDIATE</p> <p>Direct to the Emergency & Trauma Centre</p>	<p>URGENT</p> <p>Appointment timeframe within 30 days</p>	<p>ROUTINE</p> <p>Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days depending on clinical need</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever / pyrexia of unknown origin with rigors • Lower respiratory tract symptoms • Fever and a rash • Fever in returned travellers • Acutely unwell HIV patients • Splenectomised or hyposplenic patients with signs of bacterial infection • Suspected meningitis • Fevers in an immunocompromised host • Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) (Needs to be commenced within 72hrs of exposure) • Suspected spinal infection (fever with back pain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected pulmonary tuberculosis—if suspected contact the Infectious Diseases Registrar on call IMMEDIATELY on 9076 2000 for containment purposes • New HIV diagnosis with low CD count (<200) and/or new symptoms, may require ED assessment—discuss with ID Registrar on call 	
<p>Phone the Infectious Diseases Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p>	<p>Urgent cases must be discussed with the Infectious Diseases Registrar on call to obtain appropriate prioritisation and a referral faxed to 9076 6938.</p>	<p>Fax referral to 9076 6938</p>

Referral Guideline Contents

Infectious diseases:

- [Skin and soft tissue infections](#)
- [Genital discharge](#)
- [Fever / pyrexia of unknown origin](#)
- [Diarrhoea](#)
- [- Acute diarrhoea](#)
- [- Chronic diarrhoea](#)
- [Jaundice](#)
- [Upper respiratory tract infection](#)
- [Lower respiratory tract infection](#)
- [Fever and a rash](#)
- [Hepatitis](#)

Travel medicine:

- [Travel advice](#)
- [Fever in returned travellers](#)

HIV medicine:

- [New diagnosis HIV](#)
- [Established HIV](#)
- [HIV / Hepatitis C co-infection](#)
- [Mental health issues in HIV patients](#)
- [Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis](#)
- [HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis](#)
- [Splenectomised and hyposplenic patients](#)

Infectious Diseases

SKIN & SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab of purulent discharge • FBE • U&Es • LFTs 	Refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic, contact telephone: 9076 6081 Fax: 9076 6938

GENITAL DISCHARGE

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STI history • Swab of discharge • Serology for syphilis, HIV • Urine and/or rectal swab for Chlamydia, gonococcal PCR 	Refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic, contact telephone: 9076 6081 Fax: 9076 6938

FEVER / PYREXIA OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel, contact, animal history • Medication list (particularly recent changes or new drugs) • FBE, LFTs, CRP • Urine for MSU • Blood cultures 	If rigors present, refer IMMEDIATELY by contacting Infectious Diseases registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.

DIARRHOEA - ACUTE

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faeces for M&C Faeces for ova, cysts and parasites 	Refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic, contact telephone: 9076 6081 Fax: 9076 6938

DIARRHOEA - CHRONIC

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faeces for M&C Faeces for ova, cysts and parasites Cryptosporidium stain Faecal fats Thyroid function 	Refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic, contact telephone: 9076 6081 Fax: 9076 6938

JAUNDICE

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of travel, gallstone pain, medications, exposure to hepatitis Upper GIT USS <p>The Alfred Radiology request form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LFTs FBE, Haemolytic screen Serology for Hep BsAg, Hep A IgM, IgG, Hep C antibody 	<p>Contact Infectious Diseases registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.</p> <p>Send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre if acute or refer to General Surgery if surgical cause considered likely.</p>

UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT SYMPTOMS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throat swab for PCR for respiratory viruses Nasopharyngeal aspirate PCR for respiratory viruses Serology for EBV, influenza, pertussis 	If concerned, refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic, contact telephone: 9076 6081 Fax: 9076 6938

LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT SYMPTOMS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sputum for M&C CXR <p>The Alfred Radiology request form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legionella and pneumococcal urinary antigens Consider any TB contacts, then sputum for AFB, M&C Serology: Legionella, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia 	<p>IMMEDIATE referral if rigors, breathless on room air or oxygen desaturation: contact Infectious Diseases registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.</p> <p>If pulmonary tuberculosis is suspected, contact the Infectious Diseases Registrar IMMEDIATELY on 9076 2000 for containment purposes prior to sending to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p>

FEVER AND A RASH

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of travel, animal contacts, recent sexual contacts Seek history of medication and bites FBE, LFTs Blood cultures If vesicular rash, swab for herpes virus PCR Syphilis serology 	<p>If meningococcal infection suspected (eg fever, petichial rash) administer Ceftriaxone IM (if no allergy) and refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre. Contact Infectious Diseases registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.</p>

HEPATITIS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCV: viral load, genotype, abdominal ultrasound HBV: viral load, hepatitis B e antigen, abdominal ultrasound For both: HIV serology 	<p>Refer on confirmation of diagnosis.</p> <p>Fax referral to 9076 6938.</p> <p>If acutely unwell, phone HIV registrar through Switchboard on 9076 2000, and/or send to the Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.</p>

Travel Medicine

ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical history Record of previous vaccinations Medications Travel plans 	<p>For travel advice, refer to the Travel clinic.</p> <p>Contact telephone: 9076 2940 Fax: 9076 6938</p>

FEVER IN RETURNED TRAVELLERS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood cultures (typhoid) FBE, LFTs Thick and thin film and ICT for malaria Faeces M&C Serology: Dengue, Hepatitis A 	<p>IMMEDIATE referral recommended by contacting Infectious Diseases registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.</p>

HIV Medicine

NEW DIAGNOSIS HIV

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic illness ie constitutional symptoms or organ specific symptoms Copy of HIV Antibody test result and Western blot <p>Also, if available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD4 count Viral load Sexually transmitted infection testing Hepatitis screen 	<p>Refer on confirmation of diagnosis.</p> <p>Newly diagnosed patients will be seen as soon as possible.</p> <p>Fax referral to 9076 6938.</p> <p>If acutely unwell, phone HIV registrar through Switchboard on 9076 2000, and/or send to the Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.</p>

ESTABLISHED HIV

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reason for referral eg complications History of AIDS-defining illness Treatment history including Antiretroviral Rx Current therapy <p>Baseline testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV Antibody test result and Western blot <p>Also, if available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General pathology – FBE, U&Es, LFTs CD4 counts HIV Viral loads HIV Genotype HLA B57 Sexually transmitted infection testing Hepatitis screen 	<p>Referral for review in appropriate HIV subspecialty clinics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV Neurocognitive Clinic HIV/Hepatitis C Co-infection Complex Metabolic Clinic Drug and Alcohol Services Victoria HIV Mental Health Service HIV Oncology HIV and reproduction – preconception counseling and management HIV Nutrition Clinic <p>If acutely unwell, phone HIV registrar through Switchboard on 9076 2000, and/or send to the Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.</p> <p>If not an emergency, fax referral to 9076 6938.</p>

HEPATITIS C / HIV CO-INFECTION

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV treatment history History of active Hepatitis B/C infection including LFTs, liver biopsy result if performed Past and current treatment of viral hepatitis 	<p>Refer on confirmation of diagnosis.</p> <p>Fax referral to 9076 6938.</p> <p>If acutely unwell, phone HIV registrar through Switchboard on 9076 2000, and/or send to the Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN HIV PATIENTS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatric history Past and current treatment Risk assessment, if available 	<p>Victorian HIV Mental Health Service home page</p> <p>Victorian HIV Mental Health Service referral form</p> <p>If acutely unwell, phone local area CAT team.</p>

NON-OCCUPATIONAL POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (NPEP)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	<p>Phone 1800 889 887</p> <p>For more information, see the Non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (NPEP) homepage</p>

HIV PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication list STI history and recent screen (including HIV serology) Urinalysis— alb/Cr ratio and Prot/Cr ratio U+E, FBE, LFT, Ca, Mg, Phos Viral hepatitis results if performed; history of HAV/HBV vaccination 	<p>The Alfred will be providing access to PrEP through the PrEPX Research Study from late July 2016. For more information see the PrEPX Research Study homepage</p> <p>Contact telephone: 9076 2940</p> <p>Fax: 9076 6938</p>

PATIENTS WITH ASPLENIA OR HYPOSPLENISM

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>Post-splenectomy</p> <p>Hyposplenism</p> <p>Asplenism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reason for splenectomy Reason for hyposplenism eg extensive spleen damage, splenic embolisation Date of splenectomy Vaccination history Prophylactic antibiotics History of sepsis/thrombosis Referral if travel advice required FBE and film Howell-Jolly bodies IgM memory B cell testing is available at The Alfred 	<p>If signs of bacterial infection, give/take emergency supply of antibiotics, and refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.</p> <p>For referral and enquiries to Spleen Australia (including the Spleen Registry) , phone 9076 3828.</p> <p>To register your patient on the Spleen Australia Registry, register online at Spleen Australia or fax the Victorian Spleen Registry outpatient registration form to 9076 2431.</p> <p>Recommendations for prevention of infection in asplenic (or hyposplenic) patients</p> <p>Spleen Australia Patient Information</p>