

REFERRAL GUIDELINES: PLASTIC SURGERY



Essential Referral Content

- Demographic**
- Date of birth
 - Contact details (including mobile phone)
 - Referring GP details
 - Interpreter requirements
 - Medicare number

- Clinical**
- 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 Outpatient Department 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
 - Aesthetic surgery other than those meeting the specific indications outlined in the Department of Health [“Guidelines for Aesthetic Surgery on the Public Hospital Waiting List”](#)
In particular, the following procedures are not performed at The Alfred:
 - ⇒ Breast reduction or augmentation
 - ⇒ Elective removal or reinsertion of breast implants following augmentation mammoplasty
 - ⇒ Abdominoplasty
 - ⇒ Liposuction
 - Breast reconstruction is offered only to Alfred Health patients who have undergone mastectomy for breast cancer, or have congenital abnormalities or have had significant trauma.
 - Gender reassignment surgery is not performed at Alfred Health.
 - **Please note:** Patients undergoing elective surgery at The Alfred should have been non-smokers for a minimum of 6 weeks prior to consideration of surgery.
 - **Please note:** Patients undergoing certain elective plastic surgery procedures at The Alfred should have a BMI less than 30.

REFERRAL PROCESS: PLASTIC SURGERY



STEP 1

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

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 Plastic Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

REFERRAL PRIORITY: PLASTIC SURGERY

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"> • Hand fractures (open or closed) • Acute fingertip injuries • Open wounds • Tendon injuries • Nasal fractures • Acute burns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed or suspected melanoma to be referred directly to the Melanoma Clinic * <i>Biopsy prior to referral would expedite their treatment</i> • Skin cancers other than melanoma with underlying medical conditions leading to immunosuppression eg HIV, transplant patients • Other malignancies (head/neck/oral/salivary/connective tissue) 	
<p>Phone the Plastic Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For acute nasal fractures, phone the Fξιomaxillary Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre. • For acute burns, phone the Burns Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre. 	<p>Urgent cases must be discussed with the Plastic Surgery Registrar on call to obtain appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter faxed to 9076 6938.</p>	<p>Fax referral to 9076 6938</p>

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 Plastic Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

Referral Guideline Contents

Lesions:

Melanoma, confirmed or suspected via Melanoma Clinic

Other skin cancers, confirmed or suspected

Other malignancies (head/neck/oral/salivary/connective tissue)

Benign skin lesions

Subcutaneous and deep tissue tumours

General conditions:

Scar revision and management

Burns and burn scar management

Vascular malformations

Pressure sores

Other chronic sores and ulcers

Foreign body removal

Lymphoedema

Face:

Adult cleft lip and palate

Other faciomaxillary abnormalities

Nose:

Nasal fracture (immediate/traumatic)

Nasal reconstruction

Eyelids:

Ptosis (levator weakness)

Ectropion

Eyelid reduction in 'abnormal' cases

Craniofacial Osseointegration

Ears:

Ear Reconstruction (Congenital & Traumatic Abnormalities)

Breast:

Breast reconstruction after mastectomy

Congenital abnormalities of the breast

Brachial Plexus Injury

Hand:

Open hand fractures

Closed hand fractures

Acute fingertip injuries

Congenital hand deformities (adult)

Secondary hand surgery after injury

Stenosing tenosynovitis

Carpal tunnel and other nerve compression syndromes

Nerve palsies

Rheumatoid hand deformities

Dupuytren's contracture

Soft tissue tumours of the hand (ganglia)

Genital:

Vaginal/Vulval/Penile Reconstruction Post Malignancy

Amputee Services

Upper & lower limb stump problems

Upper & lower limb osseointegration

Targeted muscle reinnervation (TMR) (Bionic Arms)

Lesions:**MELANOMA - CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>Do not perform punch biopsy if melanoma is suspected. Include pathology report and other investigations if available.</p> <p>Refer for biopsy /confirmation of diagnosis and management.</p> <p>Include details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Size – Site – Duration – Recent changes in size of lesion or associated bleeding 	<p>Refer urgently to Melanoma Unit.</p> <p>See Dermatology Referral and Management Guidelines</p> <p>For melanoma referrals, contact Marisa lanzano ph 9076 0365, fax 9076 5799.</p>

OTHER SKIN CANCERS (not melanoma) - Confirmed or Suspected

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>Include details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Diagnosis if available (biopsy results or clinical diagnosis) – Size – Site – Duration – Recent changes in size of lesion or associated bleeding – Biopsy will expedite treatment <p>Refer for definitive diagnosis</p>	<p>If underlying medical condition leading to immunosuppression eg HIV, transplant patients, refer—urgent</p> <p>If uncomplicated, refer—urgent</p> <p>NB Initial appointment is for assessment only, and not for procedure.</p>

OTHER MALIGNANCIES (Head, Neck, Oral, Salivary glands, Connective tissue)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>CT scan and other imaging as appropriate.</p>	<p>For malignancies of head/neck/oral cavity/salivary glands, refer urgently to ENT clinic</p> <p>- See ENT Referral and Management Guidelines</p> <p>For other connective tissue malignancies, refer—urgent, contact Plastic Surgery Registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000.</p>

BENIGN SKIN LESIONS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	<p>Simple, uncomplicated benign skin lesions are not routinely managed at The Alfred unless causing functional limitation or if associated with medical co morbidity eg immunocompromise.</p>

SUBCUTANEOUS AND DEEP TISSUE TUMOURS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>USS of lesion</p> <p>+/- CT scan if malignancy suspected</p>	<p>Refer urgently if malignancy suspected, otherwise routine</p>

General Conditions:**SCAR REVISION AND MANAGEMENT**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer depending on site, severity and presence of functional impairment. For burns scar revision, refer to Burns Unit See Burns Management Guidelines

BURNS AND BURN SCAR MANAGEMENT

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	For burns scar revision, refer to Burns Unit See Burns Management Guidelines

VASCULAR MALFORMATIONS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
USS of lesion The Alfred Radiology request form	Refer—urgent or routine depending on severity

PRESSURE SORES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Contact Plastic Surgery Clinic Coordinator via switchboard to discuss assessment of non-ambulant patients	Refer—urgent or routine depending on severity

OTHER CHRONIC SORES & ULCERS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer - urgent or routine depending on severity

FOREIGN BODY REMOVAL

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
XRay or USS as appropriate The Alfred Radiology request form	Refer—urgent

LYMPHOEDEMA

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Not seen at The Alfred - refer to The Mercy Hospital Lymphoedema Clinic.

Face:**ADULT CLEFT LIP & PALATE**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Adults— refer - routine Cleft lip and palate surgery in children is not performed at The Alfred – refer to the Royal Children’s Hospital

OTHER FACIAL ABNORMALITIES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer to Fxiomaxillary Clinic

Nose:**NASAL FRACTURE (Immediate / Traumatic)**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre

NASAL RECONSTRUCTION

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	If immediately post fracture, refer urgently; if longstanding refer—routine

Eyelids:**PTOSIS (Levator weakness)**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer to Ophthalmology Clinic

ECTROPION

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer to Ophthalmology Clinic

EYELID REDUCTION IN ‘ABNORMAL’ CASES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	If causing obstruction of vision, refer—routine. Otherwise not seen.

CRANIOFACIAL OSSEOINTEGRATION

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craniofacial, ear, orbit and nose • Bone anchored hearing aid - refer to ENT • Upper & lower limb and digit

Ears:

EAR RECONSTRUCTION (Congenital & Traumatic Abnormalities)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	If secondary to acute trauma, refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre. Otherwise refer—routine

Breast:

BREAST RECONSTRUCTION after mastectomy or trauma

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine if post mastectomy reconstruction, augmentation for contralateral breast - Poland syndrome, or post burn reconstruction. Please note: Breast reconstruction is offered only to Alfred Health patients who have undergone mastectomy for breast cancer, or have congenital abnormalities or have had significant trauma.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES OF THE BREAST

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine

BRACHIAL PLEXUS INJURY

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer - routine

Hand:**OPEN HAND FRACTURES**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment.

CLOSED HAND FRACTURES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment.

ACUTE FINGERTIP INJURIES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment.

CONGENITAL HAND DEFORMITIES (Adult)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	Refer— routine

SECONDARY HAND SURGERY AFTER INJURY

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	Refer—routine

STENOSING TENOSYNOVITIS (eg de Quervain's)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Include details of functional impairment in referral.	Refer—urgent or routine depending on severity

CARPAL TUNNEL & OTHER NERVE COMPRESSION SYNDROMES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p><u>Please ensure patient has had nerve conduction studies.</u></p> <p>Please send results with referral if available, or arrange nerve conduction studies and note date of appointment in referral.</p> <p>Nerve conduction studies can be performed at The Alfred: phone 9076 2058; fax 9076 6075.</p>	<p>Refer—urgent or routine depending on severity</p> <p>Initial appointment may include assessment by hand therapist.</p>

NERVE PALSIES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>Please ensure patient has had nerve conduction studies.</p> <p>Please send results with referral if available, or arrange nerve conduction studies and note date of appointment in referral.</p> <p>Nerve conduction studies can be performed at The Alfred: phone 9076 2058; fax 9076 6075.</p>	<p>Refer—urgent or routine depending on severity</p>

RHEUMATOID HAND DEFORMITIES

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral.</p> <p>The Alfred Radiology request form</p>	<p>Refer to Rheumatology for assessment depending in the first instance.</p>

DUPYtren'S CONTRACTURE

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>Include details of functional impairment in referral.</p>	<p>Refer—routine</p>

SOFT TISSUE TUMOURS OF THE HAND (Ganglia)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
<p>USS of lesion. Include details of functional impairment in referral.</p> <p>The Alfred Radiology request form</p>	<p>Simple ganglia are not managed by Plastic Surgery unless conservative management has failed and the lesion is symptomatic.</p> <p>Otherwise refer to Breast and Endocrine Surgery</p>

Genital:**VAGINAL, VULVAL OR PENILE RECONSTRUCTION POST MALIGNANCY**

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	<p>If functional abnormalities, refer to Urology Clinic</p> <p>If cosmetic, refer to Plastic Surgery Clinic—routine</p>

Amputee Services:

UPPER & LOWER LIMB AMPUTATION STUMP PROBLEMS

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine

UPPER & LOWER LIMB OSSEOINTEGRATION

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine

TARGETED MUSCLE REINNERVATION (TMR) (Bionic)

Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
	Refer—routine