

Sandringham General Surgery Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

AlfredHealth

The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in high demand for specialist clinic consultations. If there is a concern about the delay of the appointment, or any deterioration in the patient's condition, please send an updated referral with additional information.

If the patient's care needs have become urgent, please call the unit registrar on call on 9076 2000.

Please fax your referral to The Alfred Specialist Clinics on 9076 1252. [The Alfred Specialist Clinics Referral Form](#) is available to print and fax. Where appropriate and available, the referral may be directed to an alternative specialist clinic or service.

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. You will be notified when your referral is received. Your referral may be declined if it does not contain essential information required for triage, or if the condition is not appropriate for referral to a public hospital, or is a condition not routinely seen at Alfred Health.

The following conditions are not routinely seen at Sandringham Specialist Consulting Clinics:

- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital
- Surgical consultation for children under 18 years of age
- Patients who are at high anaesthetic risk
- Patients with BMI >40

Please note patients with a high anaesthetic risk may be referred to The Alfred for further

Sandringham Hospital offers general surgery for conditions including:

- Excision of skin and subcutaneous lesions (including lipomas, cysts, ganglia and skin cancers)
- Carpal tunnel release (please arrange nerve conduction study prior to referral)
- Hernias (including abdominal, groin and major ventral hernias)
- Gall bladder surgery
- Colorectal surgery in patients without significant comorbidities, including colectomy, stomas and stoma reversal
- Haemorrhoids, pilonidal sinus, anal fissures and anal fistulas

Please see [The Alfred General Surgery Referral Guidelines](#) for more referral information for these conditions.

Sandringham General Surgery

Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

Please include in your referral:

Demographic details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date of birth• Patient's contact details including mobile phone number• Referring GP details• If an interpreter is required• Medicare number	Clinical information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reason for referral• Duration of symptoms• Relevant pathology and imaging reports• Past medical history• Current medications
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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 his or her treatment. 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, or if you require an urgent specialist opinion, please contact the General Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 1000.