

# Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

## CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

**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.**

### **To refer your patient to Specialist Outpatient cardiothoracic surgery clinics**

Please send your referral to Alfred Specialist Clinics via **ConsultMed eReferral**. To log in or create a free Consultmed account click [here](#).

Alfred Health's preference is for all referrers to utilise eReferral; however, referrals can be sent via fax to (03) 9076 6938, or email to [op.referrals@alfred.org.au](mailto:op.referrals@alfred.org.au) whilst we transition our services to this secure platform.

Where appropriate and available, the referral may be directed to an alternative specialist clinic or service.

Please note a referral may be declined if it does not contain essential information required for triage, if the condition is not appropriate for referral to a public hospital, or is a condition not routinely seen at Alfred Health.

The clinical information provided in the referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment. Waiting times to scheduled appointments vary across clinics and are impacted by factors including clinic demand, capacity and staffing. You can view waiting times to scheduled appointments for urgent and routine referrals [here](#).

#### **The following conditions are not routinely seen at Alfred Health:**

- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital
- Children under 18 years of age

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Please include in your referral:

<b>Demographic details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• Patient's contact details including mobile phone number</li> <li>• Referring GP details</li> <li>• If an interpreter is required</li> <li>• Medicare number</li> </ul>	<b>Clinical information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reason for referral</li> <li>• Duration of symptoms</li> <li>• Relevant pathology and imaging reports</li> <li>• Past medical history</li> <li>• Current medications</li> </ul>
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Some clinics offer private consultations in public rooms. If the patient chooses to be seen as a private patient, **please provide a referral to a named specialist** to comply with MBS billing requirements. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Please note the patient may be seen by another consultant in that clinic to expedite their care.

**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 Cardiothoracic Registrar on call on 9076 2000.**