

# Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

## MELANOMA

### To refer your patient to Specialist Outpatient Melanoma 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:**

- Routine skin checks are only provided for high risk patients eg immunosuppression
- [Children under 18 years of age are not seen at the Alfred (exception for Lung Transplant patients)]
- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital

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Please include in the 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>• Histopathology report</li> <li>• A photograph of the corresponding lesion or scar which clearly indicates site(s)</li> <li>• Relevant pathology &amp; imaging reports</li> <li>• Past medical history including duration and response to previous treatment</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.

The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

**If there is a concern about the delay of the appointment, any deterioration in the patient's condition, or if an urgent specialist opinion is required, please contact the Melanoma Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator (CNC) on 0427 399 023 RAPIC ACCESS MELANOMA CLINIC**

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## MELANOMA

### Melanoma or suspected metastatic melanoma

If histologically proven melanoma, refer urgently to the Victorian Melanoma Service – phone 0427 399 023 to discuss the referral.

Contact the Melanoma CNC to arrange an urgent appointment if:

- Suspected melanoma
- High risk patients eg immunosuppressed

Criteria for referral to the [Victorian Melanoma Service](#) General Clinic:

- Histologically confirmed melanoma
- Suspected / confirmed metastatic disease
- Nail lesions suspicious for melanoma

Information to be included in the referral:

- Please include the essential [demographic details and clinical information](#) in the referral.
- High quality clinical and dermoscopic (if available) images. Note – the clinical image should clearly identify the site of the lesion

Fax referrals to (03) 9076 8500 or email [melanomaservice@alfred.org.au](mailto:melanomaservice@alfred.org.au)

Phone 0427 399 023

# Specialist Clinic Referral Guidelines

## MELANOMA

### COMPLEX SKIN TUMOUR CLINIC (NON-MELANOMA)

#### Complex skin cancer or suspected skin cancer (non-melanoma)

#### – NEEDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY MANAGEMENT

**If histologically proven melanoma, refer urgently to the Victorian Melanoma Service – phone 0427 399 023 to discuss the referral.**

**Contact the Dermatology registrar on call to arrange an urgent appointment if:**

- Suspected melanoma
- High risk patients eg immunosuppressed

#### Criteria for referrals:

- Immunocompromised patients with new (non-melanoma) skin tumour requiring urgent management (clinical +/- dermoscopic photos must accompany referral to enable appropriate triage)
- Patients with:
  - High risk primary tumour (Merkel, poorly diff SCC, etc)
  - Complex or rare pathology
  - Large primary tumour requiring complex surgery or consideration of non-surgical management
  - Recurrent or metastatic disease of non-melanoma skin cancer
  - Non-melanoma skin cancer eligible for clinic trials
  - High burden of primary skin cancers requiring multidisciplinary management

#### Exclusions:

- Patients at high risk of skin cancer requiring surveillance - please refer to Dermatology (non-melanoma skin cancer) or Victorian Melanoma Service surveillance clinics
- Patients with low-risk / non-complex primary non-melanoma skin cancers

#### Refer to the [Victorian Melanoma Service](#) General Clinic if:

- Histologically confirmed melanoma
- Suspected or confirmed metastatic melanoma
- Nail lesions suspicious for melanoma
- Fax referrals to (03) 9076 8500 or email [melanomaservice@alfred.org.au](mailto:melanomaservice@alfred.org.au)
- Phone 0427 399 023

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## MELANOMA

**Information to be included in the referral:**

- Type of lesion
- Speed of growth
- If immunosuppressed
- High quality images (and dermoscopy if available). Note – the clinical image should clearly identify the site of the lesion
- Histopathology if available

**Additional comments:**

Please include the essential [demographic details and clinical information](#) in the referral.

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