

Hepatocellular Carcinoma Referral Guidelines

Austin Health Hepatocellular Carcinoma unit holds weekly multidisciplinary sessions to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with possible Hepatocellular Carcinoma conditions.

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for specialist clinics

Urgent: Referrals should be categorised as urgent if the patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life, if not managed promptly. These patients should be seen **within 30 days** of referral receipt. For emergency cases please send the patient to the Emergency department.

Routine: Referrals should be categorised as routine if the patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month.

Exclusions: Uncomplicated CT proven diverticulitis without suspicious features (e.g. unusual location), Routine surveillance & follow up colonoscopy for patients in the care of another health service, Single symptoms – **abdominal pain, constipation**, Low ferritin with normal Hb, Acute diarrhoea <6 weeks, Adenocarcinoma unknown primary without colonic symptoms, Bright rectal bleeding (likely anal/rectal cause) <50 (these patients should be referred for a flexible sigmoidoscopy).

| Condition / Symptom | GP Management | Investigations Required Prior to Referral | Expected Triage Outcome | Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome | Expected number of Specialist Appointments |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) | <p>Complete investigations as per referral form.</p> <p>Please provide details of GP and/or other doctors within referral letter.</p> | <p>See referral form for full details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clinical history and examination - Imaging: Quad phase CT Liver and/or MRI Liver to be performed prior to referral - Diagnostics: FBE, U&E, LFT, INR, AFP <p>Please ensure either a hard copy of imaging or information regarding when and where imaging was completed accompanies the referral (as per referral form)</p> | <p>Urgent:</p> <p>To be seen within 30 days of complete referral received by unit</p> | As required | Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) |