

REFERRAL GUIDE

Radiation Oncology Consulting

Radiation Oncology specialises in using ionizing radiation (such as megavoltage X-rays or radionuclides) in the treatment of cancer.

Clinical Lead

[Associate Professor Hany Elsaleh](#)

Role: Clinical Lead and Radiation Oncologist

How to Refer

All new referrals for Specialist Outpatient Clinics require a **medical referral**.

All new referrals are processed by the Bayside Health - Regional Care Group (Bass Coast) Access Department.

The **preferred mode** for external referrals to the Access Department is Fax (03) 9102 5307.

Internal referrals from within the Bayside Health – Regional Care Group can be sent via email (Access@basscoasthealth.org.au)

For further information on new referrals and services provided via the Access Team on (03) 5671 3175 or by email to Access@basscoasthealth.org.au

Relevant referral form

[Outpatient specialist clinic referral \(MR-309\)](#)

Referrer guidance

Clinically recommended guidance for referrers is available through [Gippsland Pathways](#).

Eligibility

Prior to referral, please check and ensure all referrals for Specialist Outpatient Clinics **meet**;

- [Minimal Referral Criteria](#)
- [State-wide Referral Criteria](#) (where applicable),
- Local Bass Coast service eligibility
- [Anaesthesia and Surgical Services – Patient Suitability Framework](#)

Please note, the [Managing referrals to non-admitted specialist services policy](#) states that we must not accept referrals that are incomplete or do not have the required information to assess.

Once we receive a referral we will **review to ensure**:

- We have all the information we need to progress
- The referral meets the Minimum referral criteria, State-wide Referral Criteria (where applicable) as well as local Bass Coast service eligibility
- Identify the best service/s to meet your patients' needs and
- Assign a referral priority, urgent or routine
- Provide a notification of a referral outcome

Referral Processing

Accepted referrals are **triaged according to priority** by our specialist doctors/health professionals, as 'urgent' or 'routine'.

High priority, 'urgent' access, is assigned to patients that have a condition with potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life if not managed promptly.

For **urgent referrals**, we will contact the patient and aim to schedule an appointment within 30 days or at the earliest available time.

For **routine referrals**, we will notify you and the patient of a routine appointment date or the transfer onto a service waitlist and aim to schedule an initial appointment within 365 days.

Within 8 working days, we will send you and your patient notification of the **referral outcome**, i.e. if the referral has been:

- Accepted and an appointment has been scheduled OR
- Accepted and the patient has been placed on a service waiting list OR
- Not accepted and the reasons why

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Priority

EMERGENCY

Conditions requiring **immediate emergency care**. Acute referrals requiring same day assessment or admission. **Recommend or contact '000' to arrange immediate transfer to emergency.**

URGENT

Assigned to patients that have **a condition with potential to deteriorate quickly**, with significant consequences for health and quality of life if not managed promptly. Aim to **schedule an initial appointment within 30 days** or at the earliest available time.

ROUTINE

Assigned to patients when **their condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly** or have significant consequences for health and quality of life if the specialist assessment is delayed beyond 30 days. Routine appointments are scheduled (where possible) or transferred onto a service waitlist. Aim to **schedule an initial appointment within 365 days**.

Safety risk screening



RED FLAG CONDITIONS

EMERGENCY

Red flags signal the most serious clinical risks and need for same day assessment or admission.

- Medical Condition requiring immediate attention or assessment
- Any disease with intractable pain
- Fungating mass with haemorrhage
- Increased temperature of 38 c or more
- Seizures

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Procedures/Conditions seen at Bayside Health – Regional Care group (Bass Coast)

- [Treatment plans for diagnosed Cancer](#)
- [Treatment plans for diagnosed Skin Cancer](#)
- [Treatment plans for Benign/Non-Cancer](#)

Please note, Radiotherapy Therapy Treatment is not provided at Bass Coast Health

Following consultation, those suitable for Radiation Therapy will be directed to suitable locations;

- [Radiation Oncology Centre at The Alfred](#)
- [Gippsland Radiation Oncology service at Latrobe Regional Health \(LRH\) provided by Alfred Health](#)

Exclusions

The following conditions / procedures are not routinely seen at Bayside Health - Regional Care Group (Bass Coast)

Paediatric care <12 years

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Treatment plans for Diagnosed with Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

[State-wide Referral Criteria](#) **DOES NOT** apply to this condition.

When to refer

Diagnosis of Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

Additional Information to be included

- [Minimal Referral Criteria](#)
- Reason for referral
- Diagnosis
- Relevant pathology/ Histopathological Diagnosis
- Any Imaging

EMERGENCY

- [Refer to RED flag conditions](#)

URGENT

- All new referrals for Radiation Oncology consultation are considered urgent

Treatment plans for Diagnosed with Skin Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

[State-wide Referral Criteria](#) **DOES NOT** apply to this condition.

When to refer

Diagnosis of Skin Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

Additional Information to be included

- [Minimal Referral Criteria](#)
- Reason for referral
- Diagnosis
- Relevant pathology/ Histopathological Diagnosis
- Any Imaging

EMERGENCY

- [Refer to RED flag conditions](#)

URGENT

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Treatment plans for Diagnosed with Benign/Non-Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

[State-wide Referral Criteria](#) **DOES NOT** apply to this condition.

When to refer

Diagnosis of Benign/Non-Cancer requiring Radiotherapy Consultation

Additional Information to be included

- [Minimal Referral Criteria](#)
- Reason for referral
- Diagnosis
- Relevant pathology/ Histopathological Diagnosis
- Any Imaging

EMERGENCY

- [Refer to RED flag conditions](#)

URGENT

- All new referrals for Radiation Oncology consultation are considered urgent