

## Service description

### Contact information

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|----------------|---|
| <b>Phone</b>   | (02) 6809 6000                                  |
| <b>Fax</b>     | (02) 6809 7252                                  |
| <b>Address</b> | Ambulatory Care Centre, Level 1, Dubbo Hospital |

### Personnel

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Director of department</b>           | Dr Charles Prabhakar                              |
| <b>Type of health professionals</b>     | Respiratory Physicians                            |
| <b>Health professionals</b>             | Dr Sugamya Mallawathantri<br>Dr Henry Ainge Allen |
| <b>For advice after hours, contact:</b> | On Call Medical Registrar                         |

### Other information

Please refer any suspected lung cancer patients via the fast-track pathway.

The respiratory service at Dubbo Health Service comprises a pair of interventional respiratory physicians with a strong interest in lung cancer, airways disease and respiratory failure. The physicians are supported by a multi-disciplinary team including a respiratory physiologist, chronic care nurse and respiratory physiotherapist. In addition, the Rural Cancer Care Co-ordinator and the Hospital Specialist Palliative Care nurse Specialist work closely with the team in managing new lung cancer patient referrals.

Both physicians are employed full time by the health service and provide a year round coverage for both inpatient and outpatient care within the northern cluster of WNSWLHD. Out patient referrals are reviewed in the main hospital, where the physiology lab and pulmonary rehab gym are collocated, providing integrated care.

There is a fully supported lung cancer pathway for new referrals and 4 dedicated FastTrack slots per week (Thursday PM) to see new lung cancer referrals. There is a standard proforma that the GPs can use for new lung cancer referrals. This enables us to priorities the suspected lung cancer referrals.

There are facilities carry out lung cancer diagnostic procedures such as bronchoscopy and EBUS FNA (to analyse mediastinal lymph nodes) in the Health service. In addition, we can also provide insertion of indwelling pleural catheters for selected patients with malignant pleural effusions.

The Pulmonary Function Laboratory provides a full range of diagnostic tests including spirometry, body plethysmography, muscle function tests, airway challenge tests, Fitness to fly and overnight oximetry.

Outreach clinics are planned to commence in early 2018, initially in Walgett (Dr C. Prabhakar) and Mudgee (Dr S. Mallawathantri).

Our respiratory physiologist is happy to receive outpatient referrals for spirometry or lung function testing from both GPs and medical specialists with reports provided by either respiratory specialist.