

Referral framework

It must be emphasised that most people with a cancer diagnosis are treated with curative intent. In most circumstances, in the event of a suspected malignancy, referral to an organ-specific specialist in the first instance is more appropriate. For instance, in the event of suspected lung cancer, the patient should be referred to a respiratory physician. Or, if there is suspected bowel cancer, the patient should be sent to a general or gastrointestinal surgeon. Those specialists then usually involve medical oncology through the multidisciplinary team (MDT) process.

All referrals are to include information below.

During normal working hours, can contact Registrar to discuss any referrals.

Name of clinical condition / presentation

- Cancer suspect

Indications for specialist referral

- Disseminated malignancy on imaging without obvious primary site, and inconclusive or difficult to obtain histopathology.
- Metastatic malignancy with known primary site and histopathological diagnosis.
- Focal malignancy without metastatic disease but patient obviously not fit or willing for curative surgery.

Referral information required

- Relevant imaging to the suspected site of the primary malignancy.
- CT Chest and Abdomen.
- Recent blood investigations.
- Histopathological report from a biopsy (or reason biopsy could not be attempted).

Send referral to;

Dubbo - Send referral via Argus to

WNSWLHD-ccdubonc@health.nsw.gov.au

Fax referral 6809 7279

Initial management

- Assessment of function
- Management of pain, bowel function and nausea.

'Red Flag' items

- Uncontrollable pain.
- Haemoglobin <>
- Neurological signs, especially loss of sensation or power.
- Stridor or respiratory distress.
- Superior vena cava syndrome (facial oedema, dyspnoea at rest, hoarse voice, chest/shoulder pain)
- Corrected calcium >2.90
- Corrected calcium <>



How to access care in the event of a 'red flag'

- Refer any patient with red flags to the emergency department immediately.

Other information

- Information about cancer specialists involved in MDTs: www.canrefer.org.au
- Peer-reviewed information about cancer therapies: www.eviq.org.au