# Statewide Referral Criteria

## What are Statewide Referral Criteria?

A clinical decision-support tool that sets out the minimum information required for referrals to NSW public specialist outpatient services.

What this means:

**For referrers**

Supports identification of appropriate conditions for referral

Supports preparation of referrals with the required clinical information

Flags emergency or alternative care clinical indications

**For outpatient services**

Supports consistent screening and triaging of referrals

Helps to assess clinical urgency

Creates a consistent reference point

**For patients**

Supports the right care pathway

Reduces delays from missing information

Makes decisions easier to explain

Why this matters:

Referral requirements, quality and completeness can vary between services.
Variation in requirements can lead to inconsistent access to care.
Missing or unclear information can slow down assessment and create extra follow-up.

1. **Clear requirements**
   Referrers know what information is needed
2. **Complete referrals**
   Services receive better information first time
3. **Consistent assessment**
   Teams use a shared statewide criteria set
4. **Transparent decisions**
   Patients and referrers have clearer expectations

**The aim: safer, more timely and effective referral and triage.**

**SRC go-live 2 November 2026**

Cardiology, Nephrology, Respiratory & Sleep Medicine

## SRC availability

- NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au/outpatients/referrals
- HealthPathways: Western NSW HealthPathways
- Electronic referral systems (ie embedded in HealthLink eReferrals)

**FAQs**: www.health.nsw.gov.au/outpatients/referrals/Pages/faqs

**For more information or feedback, contact:** MOH-Outpatients@health.nsw.gov.au