

**Austin Health Palliative Care Clinic holds one session per week to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with palliative conditions**

**Department of Health clinical urgency categories for Specialist Clinics**

**Urgent:** If the patient has the potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life. These patients should be seen **within 30 days**. For emergency cases please send the patient to the Emergency department.

**Semi Urgent: Semi Urgent:** Referrals should be categories as Semi Urgent that has the potential to deteriorate within 30-90 days.

**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:**

Patients not previously known to Austin Health.

Not appropriate for patients with Chronic Pain Syndromes – Refer to the Austin Chronic Pain Clinic

Non-ambulant patients – patients requiring ambulance transport should be reviewed in their homes by the Community Palliative Care Service.

Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<p>Patient has a life limiting illness requiring one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex symptom management e.g. pain, dyspnoea or psychological distress;</li> <li>Clarification regarding advance care planning and goals of care;</li> <li>Assistance with end-of-life care planning.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Internet Resources</b></p> <p>Care Search GP Hub</p> <p><a href="http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ProfessionalGroups/GPHome/tabid/901/Default.aspx">http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ProfessionalGroups/GPHome/tabid/901/Default.aspx</a></p> <p>Finding a Community Palliative Care Service</p> <p><a href="http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/resources--links">http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/resources--links</a></p> <p>Palliative Care Victoria</p> <p><a href="http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/health-professionals">http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/health-professionals</a></p>	<p><b>To be included in referral</b></p> <p>Clinical history and examination</p> <p>A current list of medications MUST be brought with the patient</p> <p><b>Imaging</b> (If external to Austin)</p> <p><b>Diagnostics</b> (If external to Austin)</p> <p><b>Instruct patient to bring films &amp; diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment</b> (If external to Austin)</p>	<p>In all cases, referrals will be triaged by the Palliative Care Consultancy Service Registrar, and patients will be notified of their appointment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing treatment plan and discharge back to Referrer</li> <li>Securing patient/family confidence and understanding of care needs</li> </ol>	<p>1-4 appointments will usually be required.</p>