

Austin Health Upper GI Clinic holds fortnightly multidisciplinary sessions to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with oesophagogastric conditions.

## Department of Health clinical urgency categories for specialist clinics

**Urgent:** A referral is urgent if the patient has a condition that has major functional impairment and/or moderate risk of permanent damage to an organ/bone/tissue/system if not seen within 30 days.

**Semi Urgent:** Referrals should be categorised as Semi Urgent where the patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate within 30-90 days.

**Routine:** Referrals should be categorised as 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:** Nil

For further information please refer to I-PACED oesophageal and gastric cancers resource card: <http://www.cancervic.org.au/for-health-professionals/optimal-care-pathways>

If you have any questions regarding the ongoing care of your patient, please contact the Austin Health UGI Surgical Nurse Coordinator on Ph: 9496 5000.

Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome information	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<p>Oesophageal/gastric cancer</p> <p>Red flag symptoms requiring urgent referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dysphagia</b></li> <li><b>Weight loss</b></li> <li><b>Persistent nausea/vomiting</b></li> </ul> <p>Generalised symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged 55 and over with <b>weight loss</b> and any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>upper abdominal pain</li> <li>reflux</li> <li>dyspepsia</li> </ul> </li> <li>GORD</li> <li>Upper abdominal pain</li> <li>Early satiety</li> <li>Unexplained loss of appetite</li> </ul>	<p>When to refer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For patients with a <b>known or highly suspicious mass</b> on imaging / endoscopy, please refer to UGI Surgical Nurse Coordinator for initial triage and management.</li> <li>For patients with <b>symptoms</b> of a suspected OG cancer, please refer for endoscopy according to the DHHS Gastroscopy Categorisation Guidelines (please refer to <a href="#">Gastroscopy Referral Guideline</a> for adults 2018 and request form for full details re: urgency criteria)</li> </ol>	<p>Clinical history and examination</p> <p>Instruct patient to bring films &amp; diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment.</p> <p>Include information on the referral of any anticoagulant medication the patient currently takes.</p>	<p>Urgent:</p> <p>Referral will be triaged within 2 days and appointment booked for next clinic</p>	<p>As required</p>	<p>As required</p>