

## **Breast Cancer Service at Western Health:**

Western Health provides a multi-disciplinary Breast Cancer Service for patients who require management of breast conditions. The specialist team of breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, palliative care physicians, breast care nurses and pathologists work together to provide an integrated and comprehensive service.

## **Conditions not seen by the specialist team at Breast Cancer Service:**

Patients with known metastatic breast cancer should be referred to the Breast Oncology Clinic.

Patients with other (non-cancer like) breast symptoms may be appropriate for the breast surgical clinic. Refer to separate clinic guidelines [here](#).

## **Conditions that require direct referral to an Emergency Department:**

Where there are concerns about immediate patient safety and management.

## Access & Referral Priority for Breast Cancer Service:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

<b>URGENT</b> <b>Appointment timeframe 30 days</b>	<b>ROUTINE</b> <b>Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.</b>
Suspected new or early breast cancer with accompanying imaging suggestive of a possible cancer. Symptoms may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breast lump or mass</li><li>• Changes in breast shape or size</li><li>• Nipple discharge that occurs without squeezing</li><li>• Other nipple changes</li><li>• Skin changes on breast</li><li>• Axillary mass or palpable axillary lymph nodes</li></ul>	Patients with a breast lump or other breast symptoms where imaging does not suggest cancer.
	Patients with other (non-cancer like) breast symptoms may be appropriate for the breast surgical clinic. Refer to separate clinic guidelines <a href="#">here</a> .

## Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to outpatients, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations
Suspected new or early breast cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include relevant family history of Breast, Ovarian or other cancer.</li><li>• Patient to bring breast imaging films/disk to their clinic appointment.</li></ul>	Essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ultrasound</li><li>• Bilateral mammogram</li><li>• Include reports in referral</li></ul>