



Gastroscopy Referral Triage Protocol

Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient Services• Nursing Staff	
Responsible Department	Patient Services - Nurse Unit Manager	
Approved By	Acute Health and Clinical Support Services Clinical Standards	07/03/2019
Authorised/ Noted By	Noted at Group Clinical Standards Committee	21/03/2019

PURPOSE

- This protocol provides Bendigo Health staff with directions on the triage of Gastroscopy referrals.

DEFINITIONS

GI	Gastrointestinal
GORD	Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council

POLICY

- All Gastroscopy referrals received by Patient Services and referred to the Endoscopy Liaison Nurse to be triaged against the Bendigo Health Triage criteria for gastroscopy referrals table below.
- Referrals that do not meet the criteria should be referred to the appropriate medical staff for triage.
- If patients have had a previous gastroscopy the results are required to assist with diagnosis and triage.

Triage Criteria for Gastroscopy Referrals

Category	Indication
Category 1 / Direct Access (within 30 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dysphagia• Weight loss and upper GI symptoms \geq 55 years of age• Anaemia \geq 55 years of age• GI Bleeding• Abnormal imaging• Dyspepsia \geq 55 years of age with any other symptom or a family history of first degree relative with upper GI cancer• Dyspepsia in people with known gastric dysplasia• Recent onset GORD with other symptoms \geq 55 years of age or non-responsive with known Barrett's oesophagus• Persistent Nausea and vomiting \geq 55 years of age
Category 2 (within 90 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most other requests for Gastroscopy• Persistent or recurrent reflux despite appropriate therapy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyspepsia < 55 years of age • New epigastric pain in a person > 40 years • New or uninvestigated epigastric pain in patient on NSAIDS or steroids • Anaemia &/or iron deficiency < 55 years of age • Weight loss and upper GI symptoms < 55 years of age • Recent onset GORD < 55 years of age • Surveillance for Barrett's oesophagus • Persistent Nausea and vomiting < 55 years of age • Suspected Coeliac with positive serology • Known Coeliac with persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain weight loss fatigue or anaemia\ • Newly diagnosed cirrhosis to assess for oesophageal varices
Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastric Cancer Follow up • GORD non-responsive < 55 years of age
Outpatients Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lump or mass in abdomen • Significant co-morbidities • On anticoagulation therapy • Patient weight ≥ 150 Kgs
Referral does not meet any of the above categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate medical staff to assess referrals that do not meet the criteria and triage accordingly.

REFERENCES and ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Standards / Codes of Practice / Industry Guidelines

- The Alfred Referral Guidelines – Endoscopy
- The Gastroscopy Categorisation guidelines for Victorian Patients DHHS 2018

MANDATORY INCLUSION

Personal information and health information as defined in the relevant Victorian law, which is required to be collected, used, disclosed and stored by BHCG in order to achieve the Purpose of this policy, will be handled by the Group and its employees in accordance with their legal obligations.

When developing this policy, BHCG has taken all reasonable steps to make its content consistent with the proper discharge of its obligations under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.