

Statewide Referral Criteria (SRC) Toolkit – October 2022 Update

This tool kit includes:

- Key messages
- Short and long draft newsletter copy
- Social media tiles and copy

KEY MESSAGES

The following key messages apply to all primary health stakeholders and can be modified to complement the medium and target audience to which they are delivered.

- Statewide referral criteria provide referring clinicians clear and consistent guidance about which patients will be seen in specialist clinics within public hospitals across Victoria, and what investigations are necessary to support accurate prioritisation.
- Clinical Review Panels have recently reviewed and updated criteria that were developed and published between 2018-2020. **From 1 November 2022** these updates will be ready for hospitals to implement. Several referral criteria now include reference to ongoing symptoms post-COVID-19. A full list of revised criteria can be accessed on the official Department of Health website: src.health.vic.gov.au/about
- **From 1 November 2022** statewide referral criteria for common conditions will be available on all Victorian HealthPathways, or equivalent care pathways websites.
 - Referrals that do not meet the criteria, because they are either not suitable or are missing essential investigations or information, will be declined and returned to the referrer. The referring clinician must resubmit again in full.
 - Patients will not be provided with an appointment or placed on a waiting list unless a complete referral compliant with the statewide referral criteria is received.
- Statewide referral criteria only apply to adult specialist clinics.
- Bookmark HealthPathways/DH website on your desktop and review the new referral criteria.

SHORT ARTICLE FOR PHN NEWSLETTERS

Statewide specialist clinic referral criteria have been updated

From 1 November 2022 Victorian public hospitals will begin to implement the revised suite of statewide referral criteria. These provide guidance to referring clinicians about which patients will be seen in specialist clinics and what investigations are required to support triage.

A review, conducted by Clinical Review Panels, has been completed for the statewide referral criteria published between 2018 and 2020. This brings the full suite up to date with the latest advice and clinical guidelines. Several referral criteria now also include reference to ongoing symptoms post-COVID-19.

This project is supported by the Victorian Government

GPs and other referring clinicians are encouraged to check the updated criteria through all Victorian HealthPathways websites, or equivalent care pathways. Find your [HealthPathway or care pathways](#).

A full list of revised criteria can be accessed on the Department of Health website: src.health.vic.gov.au

For more information visit vtpna.org.au/statewide-specialist-clinic-referral-criteria

LONG ARTICLE FOR PHN NEWSLETTERS

Statewide specialist clinic referral criteria have been updated

From 1 November 2022 Victorian public hospitals will begin to implement the revised suite of statewide referral criteria. These provide guidance to referring clinicians about which patients will be seen in specialist clinics and what investigations are required to support triage.

A review, conducted by Clinical Review Panels, has been completed for the statewide referral criteria published between 2018 and 2020. This brings the full suite up to date with the latest advice and clinical guidelines. Several referral criteria now also include reference to ongoing symptoms post-COVID-19.

What do referrers need to do?

GPs and other referring clinicians are encouraged to check the updated statewide referral criteria through all Victorian HealthPathways websites, or equivalent care pathways. Find your [HealthPathway or care pathways](#).

A full list of revised criteria can be accessed on the Department of Health website: src.health.vic.gov.au

What happens when a referral is incomplete or declined?

- Referrals that do not meet the statewide criteria are expected to be declined by all Victorian public hospitals. When this happens, referring clinicians should receive correspondence from the health service explaining why the referral has not been accepted.
- If a referral is declined due to being incomplete -- that is, there is missing essential information -- the referring clinician must resubmit in full. Patients will not receive an appointment or be placed on a waitlist until a complete specialist clinic referral has been received.

For more information about the statewide referral criteria visit vtpna.org.au/statewide-specialist-clinic-referral-criteria

Example social media content:

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| | <p>Statewide specialist clinic referral criteria have been revised and will be implemented in Victorian public hospitals from 1 November.</p> <p>Several criteria now include reference to ongoing symptoms post-COVID-19.</p> <p>Check the full list of revised statewide referral criteria before referring to public hospital specialists: https://src.health.vic.gov.au</p> |
| | <p>Did you know there are revised statewide referral criteria for referring patients into any Victorian public specialist clinic?</p> <p>Be sure to check them out [enter link to specific HealthPathway] before making a referral.</p> |
| | <p>Revised statewide referral criteria will be implemented in Victorian public hospitals from 1 November 2022. Several now include reference to ongoing symptoms post-COVID19.</p> <p>Bookmark HealthPathways for quick access to updated criteria [insert local HealthPathways link]</p> |

GRAPHICS

Graphics for social media tiles (HealthPathways and SEMPHN Care pathways versions)

