

Initial Cancer Workup

Referrals are triaged according to urgency by medical oncologists weekly. Referrals marked urgent will be triaged within 24 hours.

Urgent referrals will be generally seen by a medical oncologist within 14 days.

During normal working hours, our medical oncologists are happy to discuss any referrals.

Send referral to Orange

- Fax referral to 6360 3868

Send referral via email;

WNSWLHD-OrangeMedOncSec@health.nsw.gov.au

Name of clinical condition / presentation

Initial cancer workup

Tissue Management

- Most patients require tissue diagnosis before being seen by an oncologist
- Localised tumours should have tissue confirmation (Eg. Core biopsy for breast mass, colonoscopy for bowel tumour)
- As a general rule, core biopsies should be performed for suspected malignancy if safe and feasible, as this permits molecular testing
- Patients with metastatic disease should be discussed with an interventional radiologist for advice regarding biopsy
- Where biopsy is not safe or possible, the patient should be discussed with an oncologist to arrange advanced diagnostic testing (eg. EBUS, EUS)

Surgery

- Patients with suspected operable tumours (eg. breast, colorectal) should be first referred to a surgeon
- If in doubt regarding when a surgical opinion versus an oncology opinion is first required, please contact an oncologist

Staging scans

- Routine staging scans for patients with suspected metastatic cancer would include CT chest, abdomen and pelvis
- A bone scan is indicated with patients with suspected or confirmed metastatic breast or prostate cancer
- Oncologists are happy to be contacted for advice regarding appropriate staging scans

Psychosocial support

- After informing a patient regarding their diagnosis of malignancy, many patients will benefit from support
- Cancer coordinators and social workers can be contacted at the relevant cancer centre to provide support before being seen by an oncologist
- Tumour-specific nurses (eg. Breast, prostate) are an invaluable resource for patients requiring additional assistance