



General Medicine

Outpatient Referral Guideline Fraser Coast Only

Please use this guide to complete the appropriate tests so patients can be accurately triaged within the **MEDICAL** Outpatients Department. Referral should include complete patient/family history relevant to the patient's condition or complaint and current medication list.

All investigation results are to accompany the patient referral.

Test results should be dated within three (3) months of referral date.

Presentation	Baseline Investigations
Undifferentiated medical patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC, ELFT, Baseline CXR, 12-lead ECG A CLEAR INDICATION OF CLINICAL QUESTION PHYSICIAN REQUIRED TO ANSWER
Hypertension (resistant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC, ELFT, TFT, serum catecholamines/metanephrines USS kidneys & Doppler's renal arteries, CXR Echo (over 50 yrs. old) Renin/Aldosterone ratio (preferably pre-treatment) 24 hour ambulatory BP monitoring
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CXR; CT Thorax (if clinically indicated) Spirometry (with reversibility studies, if indicated) <p>(consider referral to Private Visiting Specialist – for private patients or financially capable patients)</p>
Sleep Disorders	<p>Unable to accept these patients</p> <p>Should be referred to Sleep Disorder Clinics at tertiary hospitals or private Sleep Disorder Physicians</p>
Cardiovascular Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-Lead ECG; CXR FBC, ELFT, fasting Glucose Echo (if indicated) Stress Myocardial Perfusion study (if indicated)
Gastroenterology & Inflammatory Bowel Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC, ELFT, ESR, CRP, coeliac autoantibodies, autoimmune screen, hepatitis & HIV status (if indicated) Previous endoscopy reports (if available) Stool specimens and calprotectin levels (if available) Hepatitis C patients should not be referred here - please refer direct to SCUH or RBWH Hospitals
Haematology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC, clotting profile, haematinic studies, protein electrophoresis, peripheral blood surface markers Previous BMAT (bone marrow examination) reports
Rheumatology	Consider referral RBWH (no local Rheumatology service)



Presentation	Baseline Investigations
	General cases – FBC, ESR, ELFT, ANA, ENA, ANCA, Rheumatoid factor with CCP Antibodies
Neuro-degenerative Disease & Movement Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFT, B12, folate, FBC, ESR, VDRL • CT Head (non-contrast) • Mini-Mental Test Score (MMTS) • Consider direct referral to Geriatric Clinic
Neurology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General cases – FBC, ELFT, TFT, Fasting Glucose, ESR, CRP, Iron Studies, B12, Folate, Autoimmune Screen, VDRL (if indicated) • CT Head (non contrast) • EEG, MRI, NCS, EMG and LP (to be organised by Physician, if required) Consider direct referral to Public Neurologist RBWH or Private Specialist
Endocrine & Thyroid diseases and Complex Diabetes Mellitus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer direct to Endocrinology clinics
All Confirmed or Suspected Tuberculosis and Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterial Disease	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fax urgent referral: 43256799 (Attn: Dr...) • Phone Specialist via switch board Contact Respiratory Unit on-call PA Hospital or TPCH
Undifferentiated Rash	Refer direct to Dermatologist RBWH or Private Dermatologist
Psychiatric conditions (including ethanol dependence and depression)	Refer direct to Psychiatrist or Psychogeriatrician
Chronic Medical Conditions	All relevant clinical history, investigations and care plans. A clear indication of the reason for the referral and desired outcome, including whether Allied Health or Multidisciplinary care is required. For example, acute unexpected decline, not responding as expected multiple comorbidities and complexity.

All Cardiology referrals from GPs will be assessed first by Specialist Physicians prior to referral to visiting Cardiologist (if required).

Please note there will be considerable waiting list for Category 3 patients. Please re-refer with updated information if your patient's condition were to deteriorate in the meantime.

Enquiries	Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm
Phone:	(07) 4325 6470 Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals