

Dermatology Specialist Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health provides the following Specialist Clinics for patients who require assessment and management of Dermatology conditions. Patients will be triaged by Consultant Dermatologists according to specific clinical requirements. Referrals may be triaged to an alternative Specialist Clinic at Western Health

- Adult General Dermatology and Biologics Clinic (Footscray Hospital)
- Skin Cancer Clinic (Sunshine Hospital)
- Adult General Dermatology Clinic (Melton)

Conditions not seen at Western Health General Dermatology Clinic:

- Routine skin checks are only provided for high-risk patients (multiple skin cancers and / or immunosuppression)
- Children under 18 years of age should be referred to the Paediatric Dermatology Clinic (please refer to Paediatric Dermatology Referral and Access Guidelines)
- Venous ulceration – please refer to Vascular Surgery
- Sexually transmitted diseases – please refer to Infectious Diseases
- Cosmetic conditions
- Laser Dermatology is not available at Western Health
- Patients requiring excision of melanoma or SCC – please refer directly to Plastics Clinic

Dermatology Alarm Symptoms:

The following conditions require urgent medical attention and should be directed to the Emergency Department:

- Extensive blistering including suspected toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) or Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS)
- Purpuric (bruise-like) rashes
- Widespread and symptomatic drug eruptions (particularly if painful or tender)
- Erythroderma (>90% whole body skin redness)
- Generalised pustular psoriasis
- Eczema herpeticum
- Skin infections in immunosuppressed patients

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Access & Referral Priority Dermatology Specialist Clinics:

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.

URGENT Appointment timeframe within 30 days	ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy proven melanoma • Biopsy proven invasive Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) • Patients requiring excision of melanoma or SCC should be referred directly to Plastics Clinic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected skin cancer- determined by description in referral as well as patient factors • More severe inflammatory disorders • Eczema / Dermatitis • Psoriasis • Acne • Alopecia • Skin Checks for high-risk patients only (multiple skin cancers and / or immunosuppression) • Nail Issues • Rashes for clarification • Pruritus

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to specialist clinics, 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:
Basal Cell Carcinoma Bowen's Disease Severe Solar Keratosis Squamous Cell Carcinoma Suspected Melanoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of lesion, site and speed of growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy & Histology if available

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Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations:
Eczema/dermatitis <i>Refer to Health Pathways Melbourne management guidelines and ensure all trialled prior to referral</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment used to date including duration of use and response • Extent of disease and severity 	
Acne <i>Acne unresponsive to 3-6 months conventional treatment (as per Health Pathways Melbourne</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Diagnosis • Extent • Presence of nodules & scarring • Emotional distress/depression • Previous treatment and response • Severe inflammatory nodular acne • Acne extending to the lower back 	
Psoriasis <i>Refer to Health Pathways Melbourne management guidelines and ensure all trialled prior to referral</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical features, including rash, distribution and impact on QOL. • Trial of potent topical corticosteroids (Treatment to date including duration and response). Refer if inadequate response (usually 4-8 weeks) • Family history 	
Blistering Eruptions (e.g., pemphigoid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical features • Exclude insect bites, and trauma as cause for blistering • Important to include any relevant drug triggers e.g., Gliptins 	
Pigmented Naevi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past history of melanoma in patient or family members • Clinical features of lesion incl size, speed of growth colour and shape • Changing naevi particularly in a patient with a history of melanoma, patients with multiple atypical naevi (>7mm in size, red or tan coloured, variable shape & border) • History of congenital anomaly 	