

General Practitioner referral information

The tips below are for referrals to Gold Coast Health Specialist Outpatient Departments with the aim to reduce returned referrals and improve triage safety of your patients.

Please ensure that your practice has uploaded version 4.0 templates from [Gold Coast PHN](#) and deleted all the other versions.

Patient details

- Auto-populates from data in your software. Make sure that additional relevant paediatric info is included in the referral such as parent or carer names, court orders, guardianship orders etc.

Reason for referral and additional clinical information

- What is the reason for referral? Eg, Rectal bleeding
- Please provide provisional diagnosis. Eg, Inflammatory bowel disease
- Please include relevant symptoms and date of onset. Eg, 3/12 of recurrent rectal bleeding and diarrhoea (approx. 6-8 x per day) and significant weight loss >10%. Patient has had anal fissures in the past. On examination: abdomen soft, non-tender. Fe deficiency anaemia Hb 115.

Mandatory clinical information

- Include further recommended appropriate clinical information as requested.

Investigations

- Include **relevant** investigations only. Please '**untick**' the '**all investigations**' request in your software (MD, BP) and tick only the most relevant information to be included.

Duration of referral

- Duration of referral is your choice including 'indefinite' if applicable, i.e. for a chronic condition.
- Referrals will start from the day of the first consultation in outpatient clinics and will last as long as the specified duration or until the patient is discharged following completion of the single course of treatment.

Social factors and impact on the patient

- Social factors and impact on patient, please note that this is very important as it is included in the triage guidelines. Therefore, if the condition affects the patients work-life, home-life, activities of daily living, then please be specific and include the details in the referral.

Medical history including co-morbidities and previous surgical interventions

- Include co-morbidities (some auto populate from your condition list in your software) / previous surgery etc.

Other useful information

- [Refer to CPC guidelines](#) for specific information related to triage categories including red flag criteria that inform the triage categorisation of your patient.
- [Refer to Gold Coast PHN](#) for Gold Coast Health Service Information and Clinical Resources for clinicians, clinic schedule, how to access/contact specialist, out of scope condition information and clinical resources.