



GP Referral Guide

for suspected cancer

To assist Central Victorian GPs to rapidly identify which tests to order and which referrals to make for patients presenting with symptoms suggestive of cancer.

This Referral Guide has been designed to support the diagnostic pathway for suspected cancer. It is not suitable when there is a medical emergency and an ED presentation is required.

The Guide references:

- Murray Primary Health Network Health Pathways
- Cancer Victoria Optimal Care Pathways
- Cancer Victoria I-PACED resources

CHANGES?

If you would like to recommend a change to this Guide, please email Imics@bendigohealth.org.au

DEVELOPED BY



Imics

Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Service

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Below each tumour stream is an indication of where patients in the Central Victoria region (defined in the map on the following page) are most commonly treated for that tumour. Most cancers are treated locally, however some should be referred directly to the Melbourne metropolitan hospital indicated.

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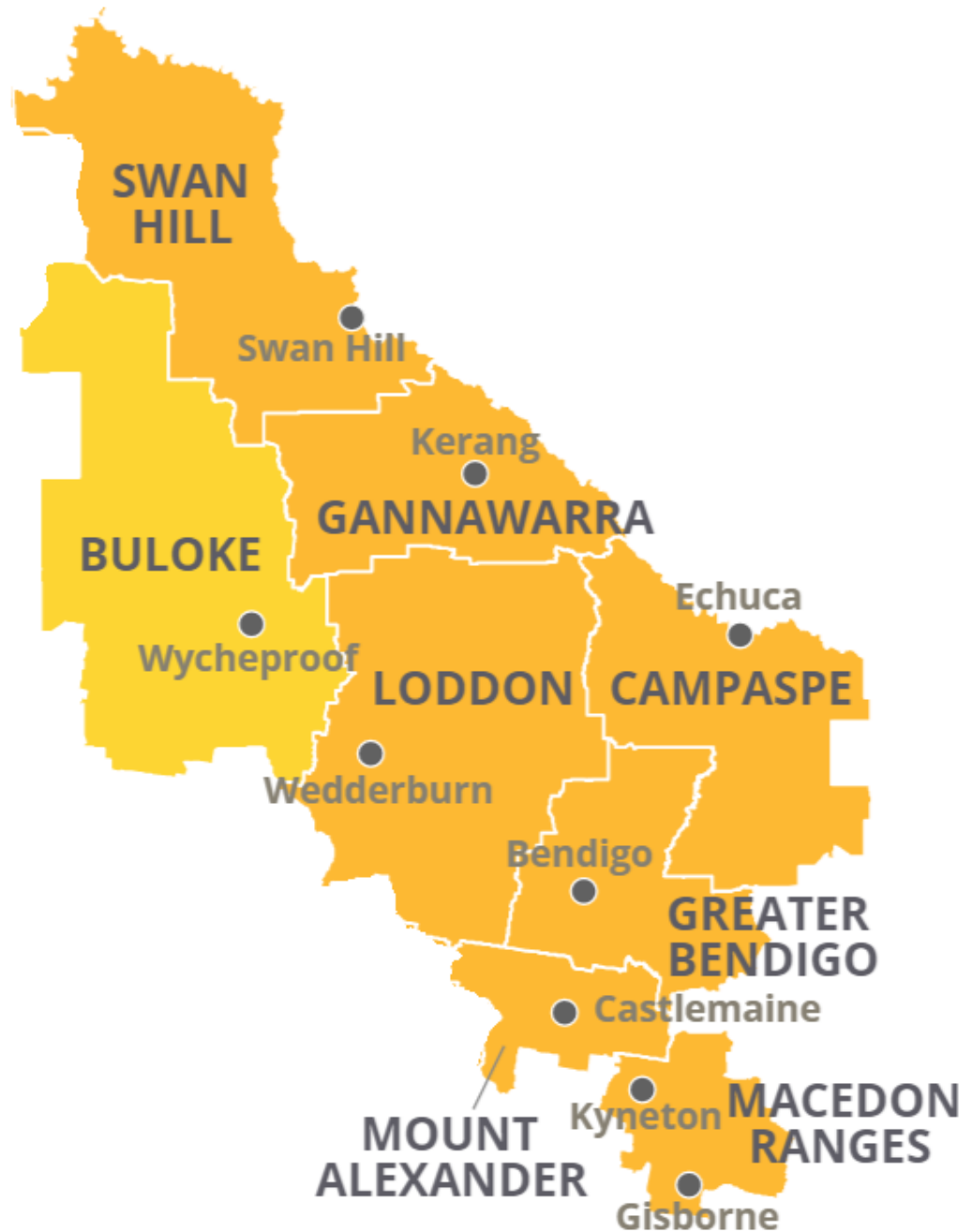
* Service includes limited Bendigo clinics

This resource can be used in conjunction with the **GP Oncology Hotline**. The hotline is for local GPs who, after referencing this GP Referral Guide, require an opinion regarding a time critical clinical decision or need urgent referral guidance for suspected cancer.

GPs can speak directly to a Medical Oncologist within the Bendigo Cancer Centre by phoning **5454 8890 Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm**. At all other times, when seeking clinical advice, ring Bendigo Health switchboard on 5454 6000 and ask for the Oncology Registrar.

MAP OF CENTRAL VICTORIAN REGIONS

This guide is for GPs in these areas:



SUSPECTED BREAST CANCER

If you suspect breast cancer, please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

1. Medical history & clinical breast examination
2. Imaging – mammography and / or ultrasound
3. Non-excision biopsy – fine needle aspiration cytology and / or a core biopsy*

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceBreast>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations, using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Specialist Clinics - Breast & General Surgeons. Includes most of the private clinicians listed below	5454 8896	5454 8922

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

Breast and General Surgeons with an interest in Breast

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
ARNOLD Janine	Bendigo, Rochester	5444 0878	5444 1359
CAMPBELL Graeme	Bendigo, Castlemaine	5441 8322	5441 8542
Cheah,Lean-Peng (LP)	Echuca	54855864	54855885
Chowdhury, Tulip	Echuca	54855864	54855885
CAO Manny	Bendigo	5454 3946	5454 3947
CUTHBERTSON Cris	Bendigo	5407 2228	5407 1439
	Echuca	4410 8106	5407 1439
FERGUSON Ross	Castlemaine	5976 4298	5976 4271
GRAY Tony	Bendigo	5434 3243	5443 4162
KEMP Sarah	Kyneton, Cabrini, Alfred	9509 8496	9509 7109
OLIVER Matt	Bendigo	5445 4900	5441 1312
PENNINGTON A/Prof Beth	Bendigo	5442 8914	5442 5246

* FNA is not enough if strong suspicion of cancer, but radiologists often decide

SUSPECTED PRIMARY BRAIN CANCER

If you suspect primary brain cancer, please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

1. Urgent CT or MRI
2. Early tumours may not be visible on CT or non-contrast MRI. Where initial CT or MRI is negative, but there is continuing clinical concern, refer to a specialist.

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Cards

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardBrain>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceGioma>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations, using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Austin Health	Neurosurgery Specialist Clinic	9496 2533	9496 2097
Royal Melbourne	Neurosurgery Outpatient Clinic	9342 7393 Select option 1	9342 4234
St Vincent's	Brain (CNS) Service	9231 3067	9231 2017

SUSPECTED COLORECTAL CANCER

If you suspect colorectal cancer, please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

1. Physical examination including digital rectal examination
2. Full blood count
3. Iron panel
4. FOBT (If someone has frank blood PR FOB isn't necessary)

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Card
<http://bit.ly/OCPGPResourceCardColorectal>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide
<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceColorectal>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Colonoscopy referral. Includes triage arrangements for Castlemaine, Echuca and Rochester hospitals Clinic Liaison Nurse	5454 7571 0447 511 791	5454 8922

Those using e-referrals should use the specific e-referral Endoscopy Form

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

For private providers search for the **Referrals to Colonoscopy** page on Murray HealthPathways: <https://murray.healthpathways.org.au/53111.htm>

SUSPECTED GENITO-URINARY CANCER

Prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular

If you suspect genito-urinary cancer, please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

Prostate

1. PSA level
2. Measurement of free-to-total PSA ratio
3. Midstream specimen of urine (MSU)
4. Creatinine

Testicular

1. Ultrasound

Other cancers

1. Ultrasound or CT scan

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Card

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardProstate>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceProstate>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

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PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Urology Clinic. Includes most of the private clinicians listed below.	5454 8896	5454 8922

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Urologists			
BRENNAN Janelle	Bendigo, Echuca, Swan Hill	5441 3130	5444 1826
HALL Rohan	Bendigo, Castlemaine, Echuca	5441 3130	5444 1826
LINDSAY Stephen	Bendigo, Kerang, Kyabram	5442 6330	5442 6351
MAKRIS Tony	Bendigo, Kyneton, Echuca	5434 3388	5444 1826

SUSPECTED GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCERS

Endometrial, cervical and ovarian

If you suspect endometrial, cervical or ovarian cancer, please follow the specific steps for each tumour type below.

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

Endometrial

1. General & pelvic examination (including a speculum & a cervical screening test)
2. Referral for a transvaginal pelvic ultrasound by an experienced gynaecological ultrasonographer

Ovarian

1. General & pelvic examination
2. Pelvic ultrasound (preferably trans-vaginal)
3. Use of a risk of malignancy index & other algorithms such as the ADNEX model
4. CT scan if appropriate
5. Routine blood tests & CA 125

Cervical

1. Cervical screening test

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Cards

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardEndometrial>

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardOvarian>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guides

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceEndometrial>

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceCervical>

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceOvarian>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations, using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Mercy Hospital for Women	Gynaecological oncology. Includes monthly clinic in Bendigo.	8458 4860	8458 4878
Royal Women's Hospital	Gynaecological clinic.	8345 3562	8345 3539

SUSPECTED HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCERS

Lymphoma, AML

If you suspect lymphoma or AML cancers, please follow the specific steps for each tumour type below.

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

AML

1. Full blood count & blood film. Refer prior to results when severe sepsis or bleeding. Coagulation studies and fibrinogen are critical. If AML or ALL is suspected on a blood film this is a medical emergency and a haematology consultant should be phoned.

Lymphoma

1. Full blood count
2. Imaging of the affected area (ultrasound for peripheral lesions, chest radiography & CT scan) as appropriate
3. Biopsy as appropriate (a core biopsy +/- excisional biopsy). Recommend contacting a haematologist or oncologist to discuss.
4. Note fine-needle aspirations are not suitable for diagnosing lymphoma

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral.

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guides

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceAML> <http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceLymphoma>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

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PUBLIC SERVICES

Urgent hospital admission is recommended for patients with severe symptoms, clinical progression or instability, or presence of or impending mechanical obstruction.

1. Bendigo Health
2. Royal Melbourne Hospital
3. St Vincent's Hospital

For urgent referrals, please ask for the registrar on call, or the leader of the relevant haematological stream.

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health (BH) & also BH/Peter Mac, Royal Melbourne Hospital joint Haematology Service	Haematology	5454 8825 GP Oncology hotline 5454 8890.	5454 8816
Peter MacCallum	Haematology	8859 5000	8559 7739
Royal Melbourne	Haematology	9342 7000	8559 7371

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

HAEMATOLOGISTS	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
BAZARGAN Ali	Echuca, Kyabram, St Vincent's	9654 8906 (24 hours)	9654 8909
TAN Shuying	Echuca, Kyabram		

SUSPECTED HEAD & NECK CANCER

If you suspect head or neck cancer, please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

1. Ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration cytology (USgFNAC) of a node if there is suspicion of malignancy or a neck lump persists or grows (including thyroid, salivary gland & or lymph node).
2. Refer to a specialist service if Non-fine-needle aspiration biopsies required.

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Card

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardHeadneck>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceHeadNeck>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations, using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Specialist Clinics	5454 7571	5454 8922

If referral is urgent, or if specialist dental work may be required:

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Peter MacCallum	Head and neck service	8559 7828	9342 4677

SUSPECTED LUNG CANCER

If you suspect lung cancer, please follow the steps below:

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

1. Chest X-rays
2. CT scan upper abdomen (Chest/Abdominal/Pelvis)
3. Lung Function Test

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Card

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardLung>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guide

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceLung>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

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PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Thoracic Multidisciplinary Clinic	5454 8815	5454 8816
If referral is urgent & local appointment not available:			
Eastern Health	Rapid access Lung Lesion Clinic Respiratory Registrar	1300 342 255	9839 6733

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Cardio Thoracic Surgeons			
BARLING Andrew	Bendigo, Eastern Health	5434 3366	5444 1826
Respiratory Physicians			
CAMPAGNARO Robert	Bendigo	5442 9833	5442 9844
CARROLL Kate	Bendigo	5441 1768	5441 3448
CARROLL Kate	Echuca	5485 5864	5485 5885
RUSSELL Gary	Bendigo	5443 1761	5441 5322

SUSPECTED SKIN CANCER

Melanoma, Complicated BCC and SCC

If you suspect skin cancer please follow the steps below

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

Check with the specialist you are referring to. BCC/SCC that are complex, & melanomas that are high-risk, incompletely excised, metastatic & histologically uncertain should be referred to a specialist.

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guides

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceMelanoma>

<http://bit.ly/OPCQuickReferenceBCCSCC>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

Includes services located in and/or who visit region and the most common treatment locations, using government data available to LMICS.

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Peter MacCallum	Radiation Oncology Service (Bendigo)	5454 9234	5454 9289
Bendigo Health	Specialist Clinics Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	5454 7571	5454 8922

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Dermatologists			
CURNOW Paul	Bendigo	5444 0808	5444 3255
TOHOLKA Ryan	Gisborne, Woodend	9740 2409	9740 2889
Plastic surgeons			
DICKENSON Richard	Bendigo	5443 7733	5442 7540
FERRIS Scott	Kyneton	5442 1131	5442 6483
SNELL Broughton	Bendigo	5443 0294	5443 0817
General surgeons			
ARNOLD Janine	Bendigo, Rochester	5444 0878	5444 1359
BARCLAY Andrew	Bendigo	5445 4900	5441 1312
CAMPBELL Graeme	Bendigo, Castlemaine	5441 8322	5441 8542
Cheah,Lean-Peng (LP)	Echuca	54855864	54855885
Chowdhury, Tulip	Echuca	54855864	54855885
CAO Manny	Bendigo	5454 3946	5454 3947

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
CUTHBERTSON Cris	Bendigo	5407 2228	5407 1439
CUTHBERTSON Cris	Echuca	4410 8106	5407 1439
FERGUSON Ross	Castlemaine	5976 4298	5976 4271
GRAY Tony	Bendigo	5434 3243	5443 4162
KEMP Sarah	Kyneton, Cabrini, Alfred	9509 8496	9509 7109
OLIVER Matt	Bendigo	5445 4900	5441 1312
PENNINGTON A/Prof Beth	Bendigo	5442 8914	5442 5246

SUSPECTED UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

Oesophageal, gastric, pancreatic, liver

If you suspect oesophageal, gastric, pancreatic or liver cancers, please follow the specific steps for each tumour type below:

1 INVESTIGATIONS & TESTS REQUIRED

Oesophageal & gastric

1. Full blood count
2. Liver function test

Pancreatic

1. Abdominal CT scan with pancreatic protocol.
2. Where jaundice is present, the following should be ordered within 48 hours & followed up as rapidly as possible: liver function tests, abdominal ultrasound, CT where appropriate.

Liver

1. Full blood count.
2. Assessment of tumour markers (alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)).
3. HBV & HCV serology (HBsAg, anti-HCV antibody).
4. Ultrasound assessment of liver & renal function, CT where appropriate

2 SYMPTOMS & COMBINATIONS OF SYMPTOMS

Please read the following information and include symptoms and combinations of symptoms in your referral. Cancer Council Victoria website: www.cancervic.org.au

I-PACED (Implementing Pathways for Cancer Early Diagnosis) GP Resource Card

<http://bit.ly/OCPGPRResourceCardOesophagealGastric>

Clinical OCPs (Optimal Care Pathways) and Quick Reference Guides

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferenceOesophageal>

<http://bit.ly/OCPQuickReferencePancreatic>

3 WHERE PATIENTS IN THIS REGION ARE MOST COMMONLY TREATED

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OESOPHAGEAL & GASTRIC

PUBLIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Endoscopy	5454 7571	5454 8922

Those using e-referrals should use the specific e-referral Endoscopy Form

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

For private providers search for the Urgent or Routine Gastroenterology Referral page on Murray HealthPathways: <https://murray.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
BARLING Andrew	Bendigo, Eastern Health	5434 3366	5444 1826

PANCREATIC & LIVER

PUBLIC SERVICES

Emergency admission

1. Bendigo Health
2. Royal Melbourne Hospital
3. St Vincent's Hospital

Referrals

HOSPITAL	CLINIC	TELEPHONE	FAX
Bendigo Health	Specialist Clinics.	5454 7571	5454 8922
St Vincent's	Hepatobiliary & Upper GI Surgery Referral Officer	9231 2898 9231 1256	9231 3489
Austin	Hepatobiliary (HPB) Surgery Clinic c/o Outpatient GP Liaison Nurse	9496 2533	9496 2097
Royal Melbourne	Hepatology service c/o Outpatients referrals	9342 7393	9342 4234

PUBLIC/PRIVATE & PRIVATE ONLY SERVICES

For private providers search for the Urgent or Routine Gastroenterology Referral page on Murray HealthPathways: <https://murray.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>

Hepato Pancreatic Biliary / Upper GI Surgeons

PRACTITIONER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
FOX Adrian	Bendigo, St Vincent's	9416 2246	9416 2278
SMITH Marty	Kyneton, The Alfred, Cabrini, Footscray	9500 8522	9509 1522