

Rapid Access Cancer Clinics

Communication to GPs in light of the current Covid-19 Pandemic

19th June 2020

Version 2.0

Please note: the following information is subject to change and will be kept under review as the Covid-19 pandemic develops.

Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics

- All Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) clinics continue to remain open and are accepting referrals.
- Due to the impact of Covid-19, including infection prevention and control measures, the number of patients that can be seen by each of the symptomatic clinics has been significantly reduced. This could impact waiting times for appointments.
- Please refer patients electronically.
- All referrals will be triaged by a consultant surgeon in the breast clinic.
- It is imperative that the patient is physically examined by the GP to facilitate triage. A virtual consultation does not provide enough information for accurate triage.
- Please provide as much information as possible regarding the breast signs and symptoms on the e-referral form and include any relevant co-morbidities.
- The clinical details are essential to ensure that the consultant surgeon can make an informed decision regarding triage. Inadequate information may result in a delay in your patient being seen.
- The clinical findings of the GP are critical in determining which patients are most likely to have breast cancer and these patients will continue to be prioritised by the clinics.
- Mastalgia as a single isolated symptom is not a risk factor for breast cancer.
- Patients who have had a surveillance mammogram deferred remain on a list and do not need a new referral.
- New GP referral guidelines for the Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinic have been developed and will be issued shortly.

Rapid Access Prostate Clinics

- All Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPCs) are operating and accepting referrals.
- Please refer electronically.
- Due to constraints imposed by Covid-19, it is necessary to prioritise those patients deemed most urgent.
- All referrals will be triaged by a consultant urologist in the RAPC.
- All patients who are referred into a RAPC and do not receive an appointment will be placed on a waiting list. These patients will be offered an appointment at a later date

Rapid Access Lung Clinics

- All Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALCs) are operating and accepting referrals.
- Please refer electronically.
- Due to constraints imposed by Covid-19, it is necessary to prioritise those patients deemed most urgent.
- All referrals will be triaged by a consultant Respiratory Physician in the RALC.
- Patients who are referred into a RALC and do not receive an appointment may be offered an appointment at a general respiratory clinic (not the RALC) or discharged to their GP with a letter of explanation.

For clinical guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic please see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/covid-19.html>