State-wide referral criteria for NSW public outpatient services

State-wide referral criteria is a clinical decision-support tool that communicates the minimum clinical criteria required to access NSW public specialist outpatient services as well as the minimum referral information required to enable safe, timely and effective triage.

There is currently new state-wide referral criteria available for selected conditions within the specialties of gastroenterology and ophthalmology. Additional state-wide referral criteria will be progressively developed and made available.

Benefits of state-wide referral criteria

- Clearer expectations of clinical and referral requirements
- Improve quality and appropriateness of referrals
- Minimise clinical variation with referral acceptance and triage practices
- Reduce the number of **patients waiting unnecessarily** on outpatient waitlists

How to apply state-wide referral criteria **when deciding to refer** to NSW public outpatient services

Identify patient's primary condition for specialist referral

Refer to state-wide referral criteria on the NSW Health website for specialist referral

If available, use state-wide referral criteria to determine if patient meets threshold for referral to NSW public outpatient service

If patient meets threshold, issue referral to relevant NSW public specialist outpatient service

referral criteria and/or visit HealthPathways

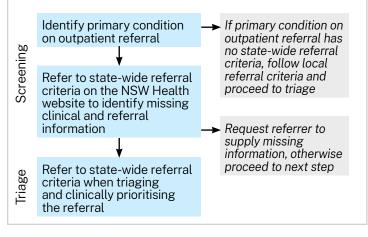
available, follow local

If state-wide referral

criteria is not

If patient does not meet state-wide referral criteria, consider alternative care options and/or visit HealthPathways

How to apply state-wide referral criteria when **screening and triaging referrals** in NSW public outpatient services



To view the state-wide referral criteria or to learn more about what these changes mean for you, visit the NSW Health website.



More information

Contact MOH-Outpatients@health.nsw.gov.au

