

Auckland District Health Board - Gynae Faster Cancer Treatment Pathways

The Ministry Of Health has introduced Faster Cancer Treatment Targets for patients presenting to the District Health Board with nationally defined 'red flags' for patients with high suspicion of cancer (HSC).

Within Gynae Service there are 7 definitions; Post-Menopausal Bleeding (PMB) and a palpable, rapidly growing or incidentally found pelvic mass being the most common presentations.

Once these patients are assigned an HSC flag, they are tracked through their pathway and must comply with the MoH 62 day target from referral date to date of first treatment if they are subsequently diagnosed with Cancer as part of that pathway.

The Ministry of Health has given clear guidance that women presenting with:

- **Post-Menopausal Bleeding can be excluded from HSC flag if they have a normal physical examination, smear and vaginal ultrasound.**
- **A palpable or incidentally-found pelvic mass have a high suspicion of cancer. High suspicion of cancer can be excluded if investigations (USS and tumour markers) suggest benign disease.**

To ensure compliance with the Ministry of Health Targets and to ensure our patients/population receive the right care at the right time, **referrers are being requested to ensure physical examination, smear and vaginal ultrasound (USS) are carried out prior to referral.** The results from these are pertinent information required for appropriate triaging and to avoid delays with further requests for this information.

If there is no evidence of a physical examination or smear being carried out on the referral, the referral will be declined and sent back to the referrer with the recommendation to perform a PV exam and smear. The referrer is also being **strongly encouraged to get an ultrasound done prior to referral** where:

- The patient has funds for an USS to be done within the private sector **OR**
- The referrer uses his/her practice's Access to Diagnostics (ATD) funds to purchase an USS in the private sector **OR**
- If the above two are not options or USS cannot be obtained within 2 weeks
- Make an e-referral (or other referral) to ADHB radiology and select the 'timeframe' option '**within 1-2 weeks**' on the e-referral form. Relevant clinical information must be included to support urgent referral.

Radiology acceptance criteria for USS referral into the DHB (or ATD) are as follows:

Post-Menopausal Bleeding - defined as bleeding after 1 year of amenorrhoea.
Pelvic mass on examination