

QUICK REFERENCE FOR FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Referral Best Practices



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A REFERRAL



- Lead with a clear reason for referral & expected outcome
- Patient & referring physician details
- Relevant clinical & social information
- Of Defined urgency level

EFFECTIVE REFERRALS



BE SYSTEMATIC



- **Who** is the patient? (key context)
- What is the clinical concern/diagnosis?
- When does patient need to be seen/level of urgency?
- Why is this referral necessary now?
- What else is critical to include?

STAY ORGANIZED



- Maintain up-to-date, accessible documentation in your EMR
- Ask patient about medical history
- Include psychosocial details if relevant

FOSTER COLLEGIALITY



- Use clear, concise communication
- Build respectful relationships with specialists

URGENT VS. ROUTINE REFERRALS



Urgent Referral



Direct phone call or secure message to specialist



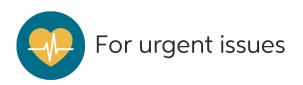
Routine Referral

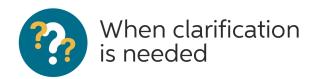


Use tools like Pathways or local guidelines for appropriate referral forms

WHEN TO

TEXT & CALL CONSULTANTS





To learn more about the VDFP Specialist Referrals Project, email mmurray@victoriadivision.ca



