

2 Week Rule Referral Guidelines - Haematology

Immediate referral (via casualty or on-call team)

Refer immediately patients:

- With blood count/film reported as acute leukaemia
- With spinal cord compression or renal failure suspected of being caused by myeloma

Urgent referral

Refer urgently patients:

- With persistent unexplained splenomegaly

The Central South Coast Cancer Network Haematological Malignancies Site Specific group have adopted the NICE Referral Guidelines for Haematological Cancer (2005), which are:

A patient who presents with symptoms suggestive of haematological cancer should be referred to a team specialising in the management of haematological cancer, depending on local arrangements.

Haematological cancers can present with a variety of symptoms that may have a number of different clinical explanations. Combinations of the following symptoms warrant full examination, further investigation (including a blood count and film) and possible referral:

- Fatigue
- Drenching night sweats
- Fever
- Weight loss
- Generalised itching
- Breathlessness
- Bruising
- Bleeding
- Recurrent infections
- Bone pain
- Alcohol-induced pain
- Lymphadenopathy
- Splenomegaly

The urgency of referral depends on the symptom severity and findings of investigations.