## Clinical Information Sheet

### Clinical Condition

**Pulmonary Vascular Disease:** includes primary or secondary pulmonary hypertension/acute or chronic venous thrombo-embolic disease.

### Eligibility

- Patients with suspected or proven complex pulmonary vascular disease.
- Patients with persisting shortness of breath 3 months after proven PE.
- Patients with known connective tissue disease (especially scleroderma) and shortness of breath.

### Priority

Patients with rapid deterioration are assessed as immediate priorities or urgent: Mon-Fri, 9-5: must be discussed with the Thoracic Medicine registrar on call on 08 8222 4000 to obtain appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter faxed to 08 8222 5398. After hours: medical registrar on call via RAH switchboard 8222 4000.

### Information required with referral

**History:**
- Duration and severity of symptoms: Progressive shortness of breath, cough
- Associated symptoms – chest pain/leg swelling or pain/weight loss/fevers
- Risk factors for thrombo-embolic disease: post operative, post partum, history of multiple miscarriages, malignancy, heart failure, Immobility including air or road travel, family history especially in those < 50 years old.
- Any associated connective tissue disease.

**Examination:**
- Look for DVT and signs of embolism: respiratory distress, tachypnoea, tachycardia, hypotension, elevated JVP, unilateral leg swelling or redness.
- Fine crepitations on auscultation.

### Investigations required with referral

- Blood: FBC, U&Es, coagulation studies
- Echocardiogram
- V/Q scan
- Pulmonary function tests including DLCO

### Pre-Referral management strategies (include with referral)

Identification or exclusion of acute PE and urgent establishment of anticoagulation when appropriate.

### Discharge Criteria/information

Patients with proven pulmonary vascular disease should have long term specialist follow up.

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**Fact sheet**

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service

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For more information

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service
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