

Fact sheet

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service

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.

For more information

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service
Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace ADELAIDE Telephone: 08 8222 4000
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 28 Woodville Road, WOODVILLE Telephone: 08 8222 6000

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