

Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Referral Guidelines

Below is a list of guidelines to follow when referring a patient for a consultation with the hematology/oncology practice at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. These are meant to be general recommendations. If you have specific questions, call **404-785-DOCS (3627)** and ask to speak with the on-call hematologist or oncologist. If you have a question regarding a patient needing urgent care, call **404-785-7778** to connect directly with the Children's Transfer Center.

Common conditions treated

- Abnormal bleeding
- Thrombosis (excessive clotting)
- White blood cell problems (neutropenia, leukocytosis)
- Anemia
- Erythrocytosis
- Thrombocytosis (platelet counts >500,000)
- Thalassemia major/Hb H disease
- ITP/low platelets
- Sickle cell disease
- Immunohematology
- Lymphadenopathy
- Leukemia/lymphoma
- Solid tumor
- Brain tumor
- Histiocytosis
- Cancer predisposition (genetics/genetic counseling)
- Survivorship (>2 years off therapy)
- Bone marrow transplant

Urgent referrals

If you feel your patient needs to be seen as soon as possible, note "urgent" on your referral. All referrals marked "urgent" are triaged to help make sure patients are seen in a timely fashion. If you wish to speak to the on-call hematologist/oncologist, call **404-785-DOCS (3627)**. If you have an urgent referral for one of the below concerns, please call **404-785-7778** to connect with the Children's Transfer Center directly.

- Significant concern for new oncologic diagnosis
- Severe anemia (hemoglobin <6)
- ITP with platelet counts <20K
- Concern for new blood clot
- Severe neutropenia with fever (ANC <200)

Routine referrals

All referrals are reviewed by our physicians for clinical appropriateness and may be deemed routine given the available resources. There are some conditions that do not need a referral to hematology/oncology at Children's. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Elevated lead levels (see current CDC guidelines)
- Henoch-Schonlein Purpura (HSP), a non-hematologic disorder
- Mild or moderate iron deficiency anemia without a trial of iron (Hgb >8, iron trial x1 month)
- Thrombocytosis with platelet counts <500,000
- Any patient currently pregnant
- Any patient 18 and older with a new hematologic diagnosis with no existing relationship with the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
- Any patient 21 and older with a new cancer diagnosis with no existing relationship with the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center (exceptions made for available clinical trials)

Note: All referrals to the Vascular Anomalies Clinic should be directed to vac@choa.org.



Referral checklist

All referrals are reviewed by a physician for clinical appropriateness. If appropriate, they are assigned to a team and scheduled based on the information provided. **When referring a patient for any reason, you must include all patient demographics, clinical notes, as well as labs and/or scans that may have been completed. Otherwise, we will not be able to schedule your patient.**

Other recommendations to help ensure your referral can be addressed in a timely manner:

- Be specific about what the referral is for and include a possible diagnosis (i.e., anemia, low WBC count).
- If you are referring for an abnormal newborn screen, include a copy of the newborn screen and any other associated workup or treatment notes.
- Provide a phone number and direct extension (if applicable) for the referring provider or someone within the practice who can answer questions about the referral.