Imaging and Referral Guide for GPs

Prostate and Urinary Symptoms: When Imaging Matters



Clinically reviewed by:

I-MED Radiologist
Associate Professor Bao (Sonny) Ho
MBBS, FRANZCR

Imaging and Referral Selector

Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are common in men and usually benign, but around 300,000 Australian men are living after a prostate cancer diagnosis,[1] where new urinary symptoms may reflect treatment effects or recurrence. GPs play a central role across the continuum of care, from urinary symptoms and PSA monitoring to recognising when specialist review and further imaging may change management.

The 2026 guidelines[2,4] take a risk-based approach: GPs should initiate a discussion about PSA testing with men aged 50–69, and from 45 for men at higher risk (e.g. family history), with clearer guidance on testing intervals and next steps when PSA is higher than expected. Consider PSA in men with LUTS, erectile dysfunction or visible haematuria.[3] For men on active surveillance, GPs support adherence to the surveillance plan and recognise changes that should prompt specialist review.

Clinical situation	Key features / differentiators	Recommended next step
Elevated PSA or abnormal DRE, not yet diagnosed	PSA at or above the age- and risk-based action level, confirmed on repeat within 1–3 months; or suspicious DRE	Specialist referral; mpMRI before biopsy (specialist-requested)
Active surveillance	Low- or very low-risk disease; PSA and symptoms stable	Support the specialist plan; surveillance MRI as scheduled by the specialist
Rising PSA after treatment	PSA rising from post-treatment nadir; possible biochemical recurrence	Specialist reassessment; PSMA PET/CT to assess beyond the prostate bed
Suspected local recurrence	Salvage biopsy or salvage treatment being considered	Prostate or pelvic MRI, or PSMA PET/CT, specialist-directed
Visible haematuria, with or without after pelvic radiation	Exclude UTI. Do not assume radiation cystitis; second bladder cancer risk is increased	Urology referral; CT urography and cystoscopy as directed
New or worsening LUTS, voiding difficulty or retention	Frequency, urgency, nocturia, weak stream, straining or recurrent UTI; BPH, urethral stricture or calculi	Renal tract US with post-void residual; urology referral if complicated (see p2)
Rectal bleeding or bowel change after radiation	Exclude colorectal cancer; pneumaturia or faecaluria suggests fistula	Colonoscopy (flag prior radiation); pelvic MRI or CT if fistula suspected
Starting longer-term ADT	Accelerated bone loss and increased fracture risk	Baseline DXA (MBS 12312 male hypogonadism; 12323 if aged 70+)
New bone pain, raised ALP or hypercalcaemia	Persistent or night-time pain; possible bone metastases	Specialist review; PET imaging including FDG or PSMA, and bone scan
Back pain with new neurological symptoms	Limb weakness, sensory change, bladder or bowel dysfunction	Same-day emergency assessment; urgent whole-spine MRI

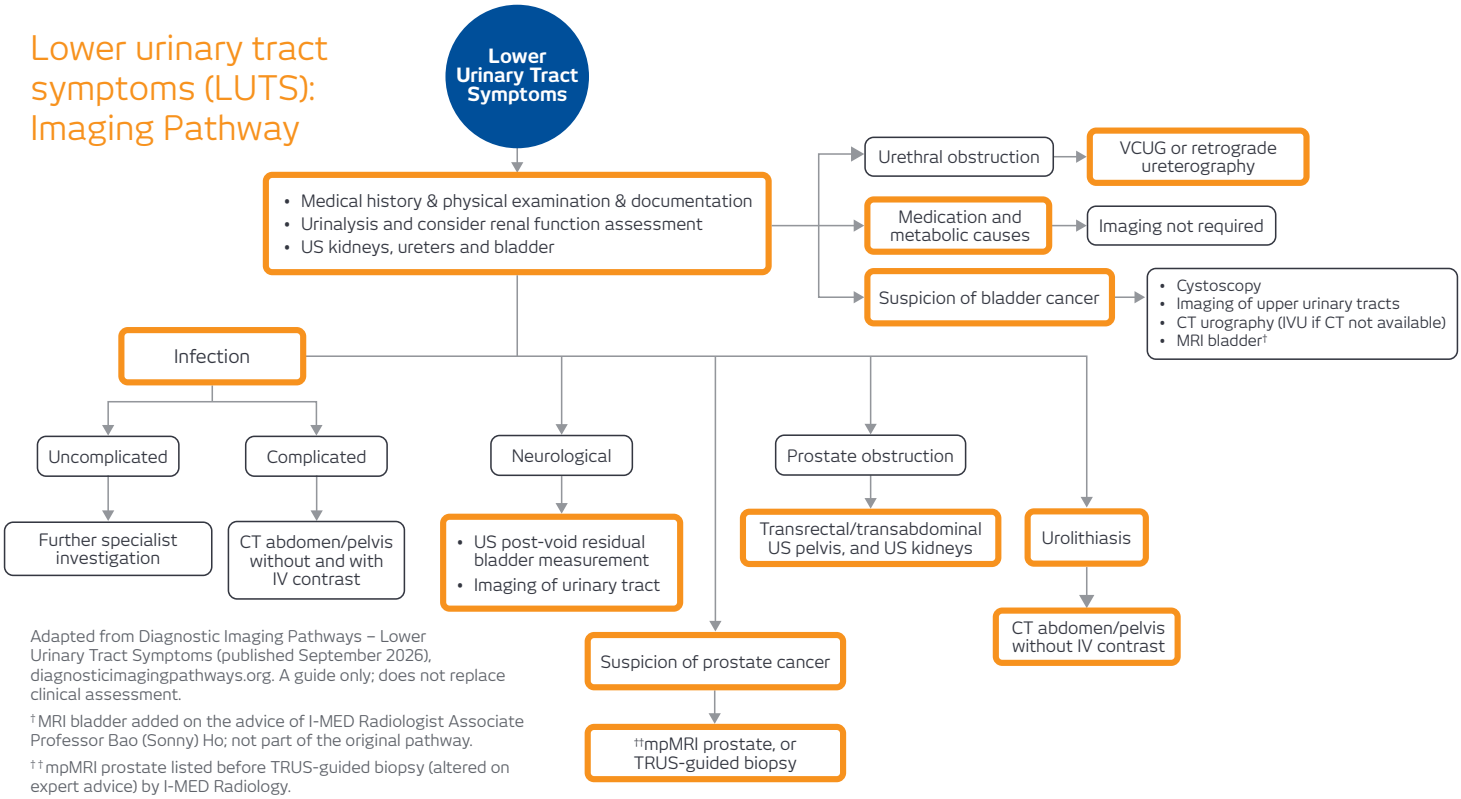
What to include on the referral

Complete clinical detail helps the radiologist choose the right modality and protocol first time.

Treatment history	Surgery, radiation, focal therapy or ADT, with dates. "Post-RP" alone is not enough.
PSA trend	List values and dates (e.g. 0.09 0.16 0.24 ng/mL over 9 months), not "PSA rising".
Current systemic therapy	ADT or androgen receptor pathway inhibitor: agent and start date.
Clinical question	"Local recurrence?" vs "Whole-body staging?" vs "Fracture or metastasis?" – this determines the modality.
MRI safety and contrast	Penile prosthesis, artificial urinary sphincter, pacemaker or other implants; eGFR and contrast allergies.
Requesting clinician	Medicare-funded prostate MRI and PSMA PET/CT generally require a specialist request.

1 Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. (2026, May 25). A million men at higher risk: New national survey on prostate cancer.
2 Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. (n.d.). Clinical guidelines for the early detection of prostate cancer (NHMRC-approved).
3 Diagnostic Imaging Pathways. (2026, September). Lower urinary tract symptoms. diagnosticimagingpathways.org
4 Cancer Council NSW. (2026, August 18). New clinical guidelines set a clearer path for prostate cancer testing in Australia.

Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS): Imaging Pathway



Adapted from Diagnostic Imaging Pathways – Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (published September 2026), diagnosticimagingpathways.org. A guide only; does not replace clinical assessment.

† MRI bladder added on the advice of I-MED Radiologist Associate Professor Bao (Sonny) Ho; not part of the original pathway.

†† mpMRI prostate listed before TRUS-guided biopsy (altered on expert advice) by I-MED Radiology.

Where to refer – NSW

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Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Armidale	217-219 Rusden Road, Armidale 2350	02 6772 2349	02 6772 4757	✔	
Bondi Junction	Suite 1/3 Waverley St, Bondi Junction 2022	02 9389 9499	02 9197 8480	✔	
Brookvale	660-664 Pittwater Road, Brookvale 2100	02 9972 5500	02 9981 4457	✔	
Campbelltown	Campbelltown Park Central (Radiology), Cnr Hyde Parade and Parkside Crescent, Campbelltown 2560	02 4626 1940	02 4626 3694	✔	
	Campbelltown Park Central (Nuclear Medicine), Cnr Hyde Parade and Parkside Crescent, Campbelltown 2560	02 4625 0260	02 4625 0430		✔
	Campbelltown (Queen Street), Suite 19-22/82 Queen Street, Campbelltown 2560	02 4625 2815	02 4620 5842	✔	
Camperdown	BRMI, 94 Mallet Street, Camperdown 2050	02 9114 4166	02 9114 4167	✔	
Castle Hill	Lawton House, 3/60 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill 2154	02 9634 1811	02 8853 8577	✔	
Chatswood	Suite 3, Level 1, 38B Albert Avenue, Chatswood 2067	02 8440 3100	02 8440 3131	✔	
Coffs Harbour	140 West High Street, Coffs Harbour 2450	02 6648 2700	02 6651 4087	✔	
	Suite G01, Specialist Medical Centre, 343 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour 2450	02 6650 1700	02 6650 0711		✔
East Albury	Albury Wodonga Health - Albury Campus - Borella Road, East Albury 2640	02 6058 8300	02 6058 8399	✔	✔
Erina	194 Central Coast Highway, Erina 2250	02 4363 7700	02 4365 1814	✔	
Hornsby	160 Pacific Highway, Hornsby 2077	02 9480 2755	02 9477 7873	✔	
Hurstville	Hurstville Central, Shop CP1, 225H Forest Road, Hurstville 2220	02 9570 1191	02 9585 1595	✔	
Kanwal	Kanwal Medical Centre, Suite B2, 654 Pacific Highway, Kanwal 2259	02 4393 0200	02 4393 0201	✔	
Marsden Park	8/101 Elara Blvd (Elara Village Shopping Centre), Marsden Park 2765	02 8610 6500	02 8610 6555	✔	
Miranda	Ground Floor, 527-533 Kingsway, Miranda 2228	02 8522 4000	02 9525 1055	✔	✔
Newtown	Suite 1 (Ground Floor) & Suite 103 (First Floor), RPAH Medical Centre, 100 Carillon Avenue, Newtown 2042	02 8228 9000	02 8228 9090		✔
	Suite 4-6, Ground Floor, RPAH Medical Centre, 100 Carillon Avenue, Newtown 2042	02 9557 1464	02 9557 0618	✔	
North Sydney	Mater Hospital, Lower Ground Floor, 25 Rocklands Road, North Sydney 2065	02 9955 4466	02 9955 7523	✔	✔
Port Macquarie	65 Lord Street, Port Macquarie 2444	02 5525 3000	02 5525 3030	✔	
	Port Macquarie Base Hospital, Wrights Road, Port Macquarie 2444	02 6590 1400	02 6590 1449	✔	
Randwick	Neuroscience Building, Cnr Easy & Barker Streets, Randwick 2031	02 9399 1200	02 9399 1202	✔	
Wagga Wagga	36 Hardy Ave, Wagga Wagga 2650	02 6932 1300	02 6932 1399	✔	✔
West Albury	3 Ramsay Place, West Albury 2640	02 6022 5200	02 6022 5299	✔	
Westmead	Westmead Private Hospital, Ground Floor, Corner Mons & Darcy Roads, Westmead 2145	02 8633 2800	02 8633 2828	✔	

Where to refer – VIC

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Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Bentleigh East	758-760 Centre Road, Bentleigh East 3165	03 9242 8000	03 9242 8055	✔	
Berwick	55 Kangan Drive, Berwick 3806	03 9709 6500	03 9709 6550	✔	✔
Box Hill	Epworth Eastern Hospital, 1 Arnold Street (cnr Arnold Street & Nelson Road), Box Hill 3128	03 9236 1300	03 9236 1399	✔	✔
Clayton	212 Clayton Road, Clayton 3168	03 8540 3400	03 8540 3444	✔	
Coburg	John Fawkner Private Hospital, 275 Moreland Road, Coburg 3058	03 8378 6100	03 8378 6150	✔	✔
East Melbourne	St Vincent's Private Consulting Suites, Level 1, 141 Grey Street, East Melbourne 3002	03 9413 0200	03 9419 8792	✔	
Echuca	Echuca Regional Health, Service Street, Echuca 3564	03 5480 8701	03 5480 8715	✔	
Epping	Epping Medical & Specialist Centre, 230 Cooper Street, Epping 3076	03 8405 9800	03 8405 9855	✔	
Frankston	19 Hastings Road, Frankston 3199	03 8781 5200	03 9781 5832	✔	
	24-28 Frankston-Flinders Road, Frankston 3199	03 9238 8000	03 8781 5284	✔	✔
	Cnr McClelland Drive & Cranbourne Road, Frankston 3199	03 8769 5000	03 8769 5013	✔	✔
Glen Waverley	Suite 1, 264 Springvale Road (cnr Glen Road), Glen Waverley 3150	03 8541 7600	03 8541 7655	✔	
Heidelberg	Level 1, 10 Martin Street, Heidelberg 3084	03 9450 1800	03 9450 1888	✔	
Lilydale	355 Main Street, Lilydale 3140	03 9738 8700	03 9738 8777	✔	
Mildura	Ontario Avenue, Mildura 3500	03 5000 1100	03 5000 1199	✔	
Mulgrave	Mulgrave Private Hospital, Cnr Police Road & Gladstone Road, Mulgrave 3170	03 8793 4300	03 8793 4322	✔	
Ringwood East	110-114 Mount Dandenong Road, Ringwood East 3135	03 9871 7888	03 9871 7899	✔	
Shepparton	20 Fitzgerald Street, Shepparton 3630	03 5821 6566	03 5831 5592	✔	
South Yarra	435 Malvern Road, South Yarra 3141	03 8697 0100	03 8697 0198	✔	
Traralgon	Princes Highway, Traralgon 3844	1800 888 669	03 5173 4799	✔	✔
Werribee	St Vincent's Private Hospital, 240 Hoppers Lane, Werribee 3030	03 8780 9000	03 8780 9098	✔	

Where to refer – WA

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Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Albany	199A Stirling Terrace, Albany 6330	08 9842 0200	08 9468 2295	✔	
	30 Warden Avenue, Albany 6330	08 9842 0200	08 9468 2295	✔	
Canning Vale	265 Bannister Road, Canning Vale 6155	08 9404 3600	08 6255 2199	✔	
Geraldton	St John of God Healthcare Campus, 12 Hermitage Street, Geraldton 6530	08 9964 3757	08 9964 4498	✔	
Joondalup	3/7 Wise Street, Joondalup 6027	08 9404 3600	08 9300 2600	✔	
Midland	1/358 Great Eastern Highway, Midland 6056	08 9404 3600	08 9250 5528	✔	

Where to refer – TAS

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Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Devonport	20 Oldaker Street, Devonport 7310	03 6421 8800	03 6422 5820	✔	
Launceston	24 Lyttleton Street, Launceston 7250	03 6332 7400	03 6336 6329	✔	
Lenah Valley	49 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley 7008	1800 000 893	03 6242 8088	✔	

Where to refer – QLD & NT

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QLD Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Auchenflower	30 Chasely Street, Auchenflower 4066	07 3371 9588	07 3871 1249	✔	✔
Brisbane	Level 1, 457 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane 4000	07 3831 4333	07 3831 4355	✔	
Buderim	3 Lyrebird Street, Buderim 4556	07 5373 2900	07 5373 2999	✔	✔
Bundaberg	Friendly Society Private Hospital, 19-23 Bingera Street, Bundaberg 4670	07 4131 2800	07 4153 4609	✔	✔
Caboolture	124 McKean St, Caboolture 4510	07 5431 4300	07 5431 4398		✔
	15 Hasking Street, Caboolture 4510	07 5431 4333	07 5498 9618	✔	
	McKean Street, Caboolture 4510	07 5431 8444	07 5498 3845	✔	
Cairns	121 Sheridan St, Cairns 4870	07 4042 6850	07 4051 9730	✔	
Chermside	Chermside Medical Complex, Suite 6, 956 Gympie Rd, Chermside 4032	07 3326 4700	07 3359 6871	✔	
Forest Lake	255 Forest Lake Boulevard, Forest Lake 4078	07 3548 6800	07 3548 6849	✔	
Fortitude Valley	356 St Pauls Tce (corner of St Pauls Tce & Amelia St), Building E, Ground Level, Fortitude Valley 4006	07 3854 1088	07 3854 0988	✔	
Gladstone	50 Rossella Street, Gladstone 4680	07 4971 7500	07 4972 6489	✔	
Gympie	8 Henry Street, Gympie 4570	07 5489 5600	07 5482 9791	✔	
Ipswich	1 Pring Street, Ipswich 4305	07 3432 7300	07 3432 7321	✔	✔
	2 Pring Street, Ipswich 4305	07 3432 7300	07 3432 7320	✔	✔
Mount Isa	Mount Isa Hospital, 30 Camooweal Street, Mount Isa 4825	07 4437 2300	07 4743 8268	✔	
North Lakes	101/6 North Lakes Drive, North Lakes 4509	07 3028 1050	07 3028 1098	✔	
Pialba	76 Main Street, Pialba 4655	07 4197 1515	07 4194 1212	✔	
Rockhampton	Rockhampton Mater Hospital, Spencer Street, Rockhampton 4700	07 4931 0400	07 4921 3281	✔	✔
Springwood	Springwood Health Hub, Ground Floor, 4 Paxton Street, Springwood 4127	07 2810 4000	07 2810 4020	✔	
Strathpine	3/424 Gympie Road, Strathpine 4500	07 3490 2333	07 3881 2464	✔	
Thuringowa	12 Hervey Range Road, Thuringowa 4817	07 4447 1650	07 4447 1666	✔	
Upper Mount Gravatt	Tenancy 1, 1808 Logan Road, Upper Mount Gravatt 4122	07 3099 1850	07 3099 1899	✔	
NT Location	**Address**	**Phone**	**Fax**		
Tiwi	Rocklands Drive, Tiwi 0810	1300 990 474	08 8928 9811	✔	

Where to refer – ACT

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Location	Address	Phone	Fax	MRI	PSMA PET
Belconnen	40 Cameron Avenue, Belconnen 2617	02 6109 6900	02 6109 6949	✔	
Phillip	Woden Specialist Medical Centre, Ground Floor, 90 Corinna Street, Phillip 2606	02 6214 2222	02 6281 4261	✔	

How to refer and access reports and images

Method	Details
e-Referral (preferred)	Via Best Practice, Medical Director, the fastest path to booking confirmation
Editable PDF referral	Download at **i-med.com.au/resources/e-referrals/pdf**
Referral pads	Order referral pads online at **i-med.com.au/order-referral-pads**
Pre-referral consultation	Call us before referring for modality selection, MRI safety (implants) or contrast queries
Reports & images (I-MED Online)	**portal.i-medonline.com.au** – access reports and images