

NSW colonoscopy categorisation criteria

Factor	Category 1: <30 days	Category 2: <90 days	Category 3: <365 days (surveillance)
NSW Ministry of Health definition of category	Procedure within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency OR admission within 30 days. High likelihood of significant organic pathology. Admission within 30 days desirable for conditions likely to deteriorate.	Procedure within 90 days desirable for a condition which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency OR admission within 90 days lower likelihood of significant organic pathology or deterioration.	Patients who are unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which have little potential to become an emergency OR staged patients: Planned patients where a patient requires treatment periodically. A <i>Not Ready for Care</i> patient is not available to be admitted to hospital until some future date, and is <i>Staged – not ready for clinical reasons</i> . The definition of staged from the wait time and elective surgery policy can be found in the NSW Health Waiting Time and Elective Surgery Policy Directive PD2012_011 .
1. +iFOBT	Clinically appropriate+ iFOBT	Other +iFOBT [#]	
2. Unexplained iron deficiency or unexplained anaemia	Unexplained iron deficiency OR unexplained anaemia AND EITHER: any other critical factor [#] OR one or more other symptoms	Iron deficiency with no critical factors [#] or other symptoms (any age)	
3. Rectal bleeding	Rectal bleeding AND any one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other critical factor[#] <12 months duration, age ≥50 years <12 months with one or more other symptom, age <50 years 	Rectal bleeding <12 months duration AND no other critical factor [#] or other symptom AND age <50 years (note: Local investigation may be appropriate)	Rectal bleeding >12 months
4. Altered bowel habit	Altered bowel habit (>6 weeks and <12 months) AND any critical factor [#]	Altered bowel habit (>6 weeks and <12 months) AND no critical factor [#]	
5. Unexplained abdominal pain	Unexplained abdominal pain AND any critical factor [#]	Unexplained abdominal pain AND no critical factor [#]	
6. Unexplained significant weight loss	Unexplained significant weight loss AND any critical factor [#]	Unexplained weight loss AND no critical factor NOTE: Weight loss is not indicated for no critical factor [#] + symptoms + normal examination + normal MCH/MCV/iron studies	
7. Mass	Palpable rectal or abdominal mass OR mass present on rigid/flexible sigmoidoscopy OR likely colorectal mass on imaging		
8. Adenocarcinoma of unknown primary	Adenocarcinoma of unknown primary		
9. Colorectal cancer surveillance (post colon cancer resection)		Post colorectal resection with incomplete colonoscopy or incomplete clearance of polyps preoperatively. Complete examination of colon (if not done preoperatively)	Family history or personal history (refer to current National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Clinical Practice Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy (section: Colonoscopy after curative resection for colorectal cancer))
10. Polyp management and surveillance	Polyps requiring referral for excision or incomplete polypectomy requires surveillance as per NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy		Surveillance colonoscopy after polypectomy (refer to current NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy (section: Colonoscopic surveillance after polypectomy))
11. Suspected inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Suspected IBD AND any one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any critical factor[#] or other symptom calprotectin (+) raised C-Reactive Protein or erythrocyte sedimentation rate iron deficiency low albumin abnormal rigid/flexible sigmoidoscopy 		Surveillance procedure (refer to current NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy (section: Colonoscopic surveillance and management of dysplasia in inflammatory bowel disease))

Critical factors: +iFOBT, unexplained anaemia, rectal bleeding, age ≥60

CRC = Colorectal cancer; MCH = Mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCV = Mean corpuscular volume