

Victorian Ambulatory Classification System (VACS) - Examples of services provided in specialist and allied health outpatient clinics



Examples of services provided in specialist and allied health outpatient clinics - approved by the VACS Clinical Panel

VACS clinic services are approved as clinically appropriate/inappropriate for inclusion in the VACS model. Funding for VACS clinics is undertaken separately as part of the budget process (see: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/vacs/>)

VACS Weighted Clinics

VACS Category and General Description
<p>101 General Medicine</p> <p>Assessment, management, diagnosis and/or research of general medical conditions.</p> <p>Includes complex hypertension, cardiovascular risk factors, angina, respiratory disorders, chronic pain, obesity, gastrointestinal and post natal complications (<u>where patients are not required to attend a more specialist clinic</u>).</p> <p>Patients seen by Medical Staff</p>
<p>102 Allergy</p> <p>Assessment, diagnosis and management of allergic conditions.</p> <p>Includes the treatment of immunological conditions resulting in allergies, food allergies, dermatological allergies and occupation specific skin allergies.</p> <p>Patients seen by a Dermatologist</p>
<p>103 Cardiology</p> <p>Management, assessment and treatment of cardiac conditions.</p> <p>Includes monitoring long-term patients with cardiac conditions, maintenance of pacemakers and investigative treatments.</p> <p>Patients seen by a Cardiologist</p>
<p>104 Diabetes</p> <p>Management, education, review and treatment of patients with diabetes.</p> <p>Includes management of insulin stabilisation, consultative investigations, patient reviews, assessments and treatment of co-morbid disorders associated with diabetes.</p> <p>Patients seen by an Endocrinologist</p>
<p>105 Endocrinology</p> <p>Management assessment and treatment of all types of endocrine conditions.</p> <p>Includes osteoporosis, complex diabetes conditions, thyroid conditions, rheumatology, gerontology and menopause complications.</p> <p>Patients seen by an Endocrinologist</p>

VACS Category and General Description

106 Gastroenterology

Consultation, management, treatment and education of all types of gastroenterological conditions.

Includes Gastro Intestinal disease, Crohns and Coeliac disease, Liver disease, Upper Gastro Intestinal (oesophagus, stomach) cancers, bowel conditions (i.e. cancer), Hepatitis conditions, peptic ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease, review of colorectal patients and pancreatis.

[Patients seen by a Gastroenterologist](#)

107 Haematology

Assessment, diagnosis, planning, management, follow up screening and testing of patients with haematological conditions.

Includes oncology haematology, fitting of thrombosis stockings, haematologic malignancies, bleeding or clotting disorders, haemostasis treatment and thrombosis treatment.

[Patients seen by a Haematologist](#)

108 Nephrology

Assessment, treatment, review and management of renal diseases and nephrological conditions.

Includes hypertension, renal dialysis, renal transplant, renal failure, associated dermatological problems, glomerulonephritis, ongoing haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

[Patients seen by a Renal Physician](#)

109 Neurology

Assessment, diagnosis and management of neurological conditions.

Includes dementia, epilepsy, stroke, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, peripheral neuropathy, complex neuron-oncology and carpel tunnel.

[Patients seen by a Neurologist](#)

110 Oncology

Assessment, prevention, identification, treatment, monitoring and research of oncology related conditions.

Includes hepatocellular cancer, breast cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, leukemia, orbital malignancies, lung cancer, known blood disorders, hepatoma, lymphedema and genetic monitoring and investigation.

[Patients seen by a Medical Oncologist and/or Surgical Oncologist](#)

111 Respiratory

Assessment, investigation, treatment and management of patients with respiratory related conditions.

Includes sleep apnea, asthma, tuberculosis, oncology related respiratory deficiencies, bronchoscopy, lung dysfunction and thoracic medicine.

[Patients seen by a Respiratory Physician](#)

VACS Category and General Description

112 Rheumatology

Assessment, treatment, management and rehabilitation of patients with rheumatologic conditions.

Includes, joint and soft tissue infections, connective tissue disease, arthritis, spinal conditions, orthopaedic conditions, acute muscle injury and joint injury (*Note: these clinics relate to acute outpatients and not sub-acute ambulatory rehabilitation clinics*).

Patients seen by a Rheumatologist

113 Dermatology

Management, treatment assessment and diagnosis of patients suffering from dermatological conditions.

Includes skin cancer, photosensitive disorders, general biopsies, joint disorders, musculoskeletal disorders, skin allergies and chronic inflammatory/infective skin conditions.

Patients seen by a Dermatologist

114 Infectious Diseases

Referral, investigation, prevention, counselling, management, review, treatment assessment and diagnosis of patients with infectious diseases.

Includes T.B., Hepatitis B and C., HIV, herpes, gonorrhoea, syphilis, chlamydia, tuberculosis, referral patients with co-morbid conditions such as cardiac and orthopaedic, needlestick injury and immunological disorders.

Patients seen by Infectious Disease and/or Respiratory Physician

115 Developmental Neurological Disability

Specialist services, research and management of people suffering from various developmental neurological disabilities.

Includes Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy and Paediatric (intellectual or physical) delayed development.

Patients seen by a Neurosurgeon and/or Orthopaedic Surgeon, Urologist and Paediatrician

201 General Surgery

Assessment, diagnosis, management, review and treatment of patients requiring general surgical procedures and those requiring management as a result of surgical procedures.

Includes breast disorders, upper GI conditions, colorectal conditions, surgical oncology patients, general paediatric, specialist surgical disorders, inflammatory bowel disease and faecal incontinences.

Patients seen by a General Surgeon

202 Cardiothoracic

Management, assessment, review, diagnosis, planning, consultation and referral of patients with cardiothoracic conditions.

Includes upper gastrointestinal conditions, pre and postoperative cardiac patients, lobectomies and thoracotomies.

Patients seen by a Cardiac Surgeon and/or Respiratory Physician and Cardiac Physician

VACS Category and General Description

203 Neurosurgery

Assessment, follow up, management and review of patients with neurosurgical conditions, those who have had and those who require neurosurgery.

Includes brain surgery, laminectomies, paralysis and conditions pertaining to the nervous system.

Patients seen by a Neurosurgeon and/or Neurologist

204 Ophthalmology

Assessment, review, treatment and management of conditions relating to vision.

Includes patients requiring Beta radiation and post operative wound management, aswell as those suffering from inflammatory disease of the eye, disease of eyelids and tear system, glaucoma, corneal grafting, retinal detachment, squint, pterygia, errors of refraction, cataracts, HIV related problems, lid disorders, stroke and neurological conditions resulting in vision impairment.

Patients seen by a Ophthalmologists and/or Ophthalmic Surgeon

205 Ear, Nose and Throat

Consultation, diagnosis, planning investigation, treatment, for patients with ear, nose and throat conditions requiring pre/post surgery.

Includes voice disorders, cochlear implants, disorders of speech (i.e. spastic dysphonia), hearing loss due to medical conditions and epistaxis.

Patients seen by an ENT Surgeon and/or ENT Specialist

206 Plastic Surgery

Pre and post-operative assessment, microsurgery, review and follow-up of patients with conditions requiring plastic surgery.

Includes, Epidermolysis Bullosa, cleft lip, cleft palate, brachial plexis damage and removal of sutures and dressings.

Patients seen by a Plastic Surgeon and/or Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon

207 Urology

Assessment, follow-up, consultation, diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from diseases of the urinary tract and urogenital system and those who have had prostatectomy or other urological surgery.

Includes urethral dilation, urinary or faecal incontinence, prostatic cancer, stones and bladder disorders, urinary problems and gynaecological problems.

Patients seen by a Urologist and/or Gynaecologist

VACS Category and General Description

208 Vascular

Management, investigation, review and assessment of patients with vascular surgery related conditions.

Includes accelerated vascular disease/atherothrombotic disorders, vascular thrombotic disease, atherothrombotic disease, varicose veins, vascular problems and hypertensive problems.

Patients seen by a Vascular Surgeon

209 Pre-admission

Pre-operative assessment, testing, examination and education procedures for patients prior to surgery.

Includes anaesthetic workup, anaesthetic risk, application of telemedicine, coronary angiogram, radiological investigations, obtaining medical history, organisation of pre-operative tests and obtaining consent.

Patients seen by an Anaesthetist and/or Medical Staff

301 Dental

Treatment and assessment of all dental procedures

Including, general dentistry, plates, braces, prosthodontic, periodontic, emergency oral, fitting of Mandibular advancement devices and gum disease therapy.

Patients seen by a Dentist and/or Endodontist and Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon

310 Orthopaedic

Management, treatment (i.e. fitting of wheelchairs, pin removal, plastering, insertion of rods), referral, assessment and review of all orthopaedic conditions.

Includes fractures, soft tissue injuries, gait disorders, limb deficiency, scoliosis, cerebral palsy, complex knee disabilities, arthritis, orthopaedic disabilities, reconstructive surgery of joints, joint replacements and chronic spinal conditions.

Patients seen by an Orthopaedic Surgeon

311 Orthopaedic Applications

Fitting and provision of orthotic services, prosthesis and orthopaedic surgical appliances as prescribed by a doctor (i.e. for children with special needs).

350 Psychiatry and Behavioural Disorders

Assessment, treatment, diagnosis and management of output group 111 patients with various psychiatric and behavioural disorders.

Includes postnatal depression, difficulties in sexual relationships or sexual function, medical conditions which result in cognitive changes, eating disorders and emotional/psychiatric episodes.

Patients seen by a Psychiatrist and/or Behavioural Paediatrician

VACS Category and General Description

401 Family Planning

Treatment, referral, management, information and advise services for patients with problems relating to family planning.

Includes advice on contraception, pap smears, sterilisation, infertility, termination of pregnancy, menopause, and pregnancy in general, the provision of pregnancy testing services and post-natal follow-up, pap smear and breast screening services.

Patients seen by a Gynaecologist and/or Reproductive Endocrinologist

402 Obstetrics

Assessment, counselling, treatment and review of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the period during which they recover from childbirth.

Includes the treatment of menstrual difficulties and period pain, care of breast lumps, obstetric management of women with an abnormal foetus, identification of women at risk of developing cancer and management of ante-natal women with hypertension, renal or auto-immune complications.

Patients seen by an Obstetrician, Gynaecologist and/or Midwife

403 Gynaecology

Assessment, review, diagnosis and treatment of problems/disorders affecting the female reproductive organs.

Includes ectopic pregnancy, hydatiform mole, menstrual problems, fertility, pregnancy termination and endocrinological conditions.

Patients seen by a Gynaecologist

404 Reproductive Medicine

Assessment, investigation and management of all problems relating to, or affecting human infertility.

Includes investigation for infertility problems.

Patients seen by a Specialist Obstetrician and/or Endocrinologist

405 Dysplasia and Colposcopy

Assessment, investigation, management and treatment of developmental abnormalities relating to adult cells.

Includes premalignant conditions of the genital tract (cervix, vagina, vulva), abnormal pap smears and cervical dysplasia.

Patients seen by a Gynaecologist

501 Paediatric Surgical

Management, review and treatment of all types of paediatric conditions requiring surgery.

Includes treatment of burns, eye, ear and nose problems, fractures, all types of dressings, orthopaedic treatments, neurological problems and thoracic problems.

Patients seen by a Paediatric Surgeon and/or Paediatric Physician

VACS Category and General Description

502 Paediatrics Medical

Management review and treatment of all types of paediatric medical conditions.

Includes cerebral palsy, asthma, premature neonates, anorexia nervosa, monitoring of growth and development and follow-up of babies whose mothers have had medical problems such as diabetes.

Patients seen by a Paediatrician

550 Emergency Medicine

Treatment and follow-up review of patients who have not been admitted who present to emergency departments suffering from various conditions.

Patients seen by various Medical Staff

Note

In VACS, specialist clinic patients must have a one-on-one encounter with a doctor (specialist/physician).

The only exception is for VACS 402 where patients may see a midwife (performing equivalent duties) instead of a doctor.

VACS Allied Health Clinics

VACS Category and General Description

601 Audiology

Diagnosis and assessment of hearing conditions.

Includes inner ear function, hearing tests, general auditory screening tests and specific screening tests for people with related disorders.

602 Nutrition

Education, assessment and treatment, by nutritionists or dietician, for patients requiring assistance with diet and weight.

Includes patients with endocrine metabolic fertility problems, patients with eating disorders, education for mothers during pregnancy and breast feeding and oncology patients requiring dietary assessment and modification as part of ongoing medical treatment.

603 Optometry

Review, assessment and treatment of conditions relating to vision.

Includes the measurement of visual refractive power and the correction of visual defects with lenses or glasses.

604 Occupational Therapy

Assessment, treatment and implementation of occupational therapy procedures and equipment for inpatients and outpatients suffering from various mental and physical conditions.

Treatment includes specialist hand, lower limb and upper limb rehabilitation, mobilisation, strengthening and scar management, customised manufacture of splints and implementation of home modifications such as ramps for access via wheelchairs.

605 Physiotherapy

Assessment and treatment of patients (with all types of medical conditions) requiring physiotherapy, such as musculoskeletal disorders, fractures and orthopaedic conditions.

Includes hand and neuromuscular manipulation, cardiac rehabilitation, amputee, neurology, hydrotherapy and various other pre and postoperative treatments.

606 Podiatry

Review management and treatment of patients with general and specific podiatry conditions often associated with Diabetes.

Includes ulcer management, orthotic therapy, below knee casting, vascular assessment, neurological assessment and orthopaedic assessment of feet.

607 Speech Pathology

Assessment, treatment, review and ongoing management of patients with various speech difficulties.

Includes correction of communication and language problems, swallowing difficulties and progressive neurological conditions affecting, or related to, speech.

VACS Category and General Description

608 Social Work

Generalised and specific counselling and education for patients suffering from a variety of conditions.

Includes patients with cancer, pregnancy, substance abuse, psychosocial issues, parenting, depression, domestic violence, chronic illness, anxiety and reproductive loss.

609 Other Allied Health Services

Treatment, assessment, management and review of all other allied health conditions, which do not fall into specific allied health categories.

Includes psychology, neuropsychology, education classes, dressing clinics, human relations, orthoptics, infectious control, continence nurse clinics, breast care nurse clinics, pacemaker testing, prostheses and aids, retinal screening, insulin stabilisation, genetic counsellor services, play therapy, ethnic support services, antenatal classes and infusion centres.

610 Cardiac Rehabilitation

Includes rehabilitation treatment following acute cardiac problems, such as myocardial infarction, general consultative procedures, such as pacemaker checks and ECG scans.

611 Hydrotherapy

Includes the treatment of disease through the use of copious and frequent pure water, both internally and externally, for a variety of symptoms.

Note

Nurse run clinics are approved under Allied Health VACS categories (with the exception of midwife run clinics under VACS Category 402).