

THORACIC SURGERY

National Clinical Priority Access Criteria (CPAC)

Category Definitions :

- 1. Immediate - immediate hospital admission requiring surgery within > 24 hours
- 2. Urgent - hospital case requiring surgery before they can leave hospital - within 1 week
- 3. Semi - Urgent - admission from home but requires surgery within 1 - 3 weeks
- 4. Routine - at home and has a condition that can wait longer than 4 weeks but no longer than 24 weeks

Immediate and Urgent cases must be discussed with the Specialist or Registrar in order to get appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter sent with the patient, faxed or e-mailed. The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

| Category | Criteria |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Immediate | Surgical emergency. Chest trauma either blunt or penetrating that is associated with significant intrathoracic haemorrhage. Ruptured oesophagus, bronchus. |
| 2. Urgent | Patient with non-resolving pneumothorax/air leak or intra-thoracic infection requiring drainage or resection. |
| 3. Semi - Urgent | Any patient with intra-thoracic malignancy. Open lung biopsy for suspected malignancy. |
| 4. Routine | Other benign conditions such as bullous disease or elective pleurodesis patients. Lung reduction surgery. |

Note: Severe pectus excavatum and carinatum may be referred for prioritisation and possible treatment