



**ST VINCENT'S  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**  
TOOWOOMBA

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

**PATIENT INFORMATION**



# Allied Health Cancer Care Clinic



## Who We Are

We provide a comprehensive allied health cancer care service focused on prospective surveillance, early detection, assessment, and management of cancer-related lymphoedema and functional concerns associated with cancer treatment for patients who have undergone relevant surgery or treatment at St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba.

These services are delivered by specialist allied health clinicians, including Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists who are accredited Lymphoedema Practitioners.

We work closely with surgeons, oncologists, the St Vincent's Breast Health Nurse, Breast Health Toowoomba, the St Vincent's Oncology Centre, and Blush Cancer Care to support patients throughout their treatment journey.



### ELIGIBILITY

This service is available to patients who have undergone relevant surgery or oncology care at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba.

Patients will be advised of their eligibility during admission. Referrals can also be made through the following contacts:

**Phone:** 07 4690 4000

**Email:** [SVPHTalliedhealthop@svha.org.au](mailto:SVPHTalliedhealthop@svha.org.au)



# What Is Lymphoedema?

Lymphoedema is a condition in which an accumulation of protein-rich fluid in the tissues causes swelling in one or more areas of the body.

Damage to the lymphatic system can occur as a result of cancer treatment, including surgery involving lymph node removal, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, or progression of malignant disease.

While lymphoedema is a chronic condition and currently has no cure, early diagnosis and appropriate management can help reduce symptoms, improve function, and minimise progression.

## Services Provided

- Prospective surveillance for patients at risk of cancer-related lymphoedema, including pre-operative baseline assessment, regular post-operative monitoring, and screening using the SOZO device to support early detection and intervention.
- Assessment and management of lymphoedema.
- Scar management.
- Pre- and post-surgical exercise prescription.
- Prescription and fitting of compression garments.
- Education and advice to support the early identification of lymphoedema and loss of function related to cancer treatment.
- Early identification of subclinical lymphoedema allows intervention at the earliest stages and may reduce the risk of progression to chronic lymphoedema.

## EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

Cancer-related lymphoedema can develop months or years after treatment. Early detection through regular monitoring allows timely intervention and may reduce the severity and long-term impact of lymphoedema. Ongoing screening occurs for 5 years post-surgery.



# Fee Schedule



## **PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT AND 6-WEEK POST-OPERATIVE REVIEW**

These appointments are covered as part of the patient's admission and are provided at no additional cost.



## **INITIAL CONSULTATION - \$195**

This is the first consultation following the 6-week review appointment. The session includes assessment using the SOZO device, education, and management planning.



## **STANDARD CONSULTATION - \$140**

This session includes ongoing assessment and intervention appropriate to your condition and stage of your cancer journey.



## **COMPRESSION GARMENTS**

Depending on your condition and management plan, you may require compression bandaging or garments. These are provided at an additional cost, which will be discussed with you prior to prescription.



## **HEALTH FUND REBATES**

Depending on your health fund and level of cover, you may be eligible to claim a rebate for part of these fees.

## **The SOZO Device**

The clinic uses the SOZO device as part of a suite of clinical tools for the assessment and management of patients at risk of developing lymphoedema, as well as those with diagnosed lymphoedema. The SOZO device uses bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS) technology to assess fluid status and tissue composition and generate an L-Dex score to assist in the early detection and monitoring of cancer-related lymphoedema.

This quick, 30-second, non-invasive test supports proactive patient care through:

- Early detection of lymphoedema.
- Monitoring of treatment progress.
- Enhanced patient education and support.

The SOZO device was generously donated by Blush Cancer Care and enables us to provide up-to-date and accurate lymphoedema screening for our patients.