

Amputee Clinic Referral Guideline



Austin Health Amputee Unit holds 6 weekly multidisciplinary meetings with Health Independence Programs to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with limb loss.

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for specialist clinics					
<p>For all emergency cases that require immediate review, or pose an immediate risk to life or limb, please dial 000 or send the patient to the Emergency Department.</p> <p>Direct the patient to the Emergency Department for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe pain, deformity or new swelling or redness of the residual limb 					
<p>Urgent: Referrals should be categorised as urgent if the patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life, if not managed promptly. These patients should be seen within 30 days of referral receipt.</p>					
<p>Routine: Referrals should be categorised as routine if the patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month.</p>					
<p>Exclusions: Amputee Unit does not provide the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under 15 years 					
Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<p>Anyone living with limb loss.</p> <p>If your patient does not live near to Austin Health, we may recommend a closer service.</p>	<p>When to Refer: For prosthetic management</p> <p>Previous treatment already tried: N/A</p>	<p>To be included in referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason for Referral • Clinical history • Medication list • List of Providers involved eg. NDIS coordinator, therapists. <p>Imaging – if not known to Austin Health</p> <p>Diagnostics – if significant co-morbidities</p> <p>Instruct patient to bring films & diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment.</p>	<p>Urgent: Significant disability eg: due to loss or malfunction of prosthesis.</p> <p>Routine: Mild to moderate disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management advice for healthcare conditions impacting prosthesis use. • Advice on the care of the residual limb. • Prescription and fitting of prosthesis. • Advice on care and maintenance of prosthesis. 	<p>Patients often attend this service annually for as long as they use a prosthesis, more often with the first prosthesis.</p>