

Orthopaedic & General Rehab clinic Referral Guideline

Austin Health Orthopaedic & General Rehab clinic holds monthly multidisciplinary meetings with Health Independence Programs to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with Orthopaedic and General Rehab conditions.

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, new onset pain • Sudden functional deterioration of unknown cause 					
<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: Orthopaedic & General Rehab clinic does not provide the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under 16 years 					
Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<p>Any person who has had a recent orthopaedic or significant illness that has caused a reduction in their usual function.</p> <p>People living closer to another health service may be directed to that service.</p> <p>People living with long term disability from an orthopaedic or other condition</p>	<p>When to Refer: During or shortly after acute care for the orthopaedic or other condition.</p> <p>Previous treatment already tried: If your patient has been discharged from outpatient rehabilitation elsewhere, referral to this clinic may not result in more therapy being offered.</p>	<p>To be included in referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason for Referral • Diagnosis • Clinical history • Medication list <p>Imaging – if acute care was not at Austin.</p> <p>Diagnostics – if acute care was not at Austin.</p> <p>Instruct patient to bring films & diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment.</p>	<p>Urgent: High level of disability as a result of a recent orthopaedic or other illness.</p> <p>Routine: Mild to moderate level of disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and management of common sequelae such as deconditioning and pain. • Referrals to outpatient therapy, including OT driving assessor. • Assistance with return to work advice and certification. • Securing patient/family confidence of understanding and self care 	<p>Patients can be seen until their recovery has plateaued.</p> <p>If ongoing disability management is needed they can be referred to the Disability service clinic.</p>

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