

Paediatric Unit Referral Guideline

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for specialist clinics

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.

Direct to Emergency Department:

- New onset Diabetes (or phone the Paediatric Registrar on call immediately)

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.

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.

Exclusions: Paediatric Medicine does not provide the following services:

- Specialist Allergy Referrals – we do not do Skin Prick Testing or Allergy Challenges
- General Paediatric Surgical Referrals

Austin Health Paediatric Unit has General Paediatric Medical Clinics for children aged 0 to 17 years. Referrals require detailed information about the presentation and concerns to allow for accurate triaging. Referrals without adequate information will be rejected.

Please refer to Health Pathways for investigations and treatment options prior to referral.

When there are concerns about a child's development or behaviour, please refer immediately for early intervention by allied health and assessment of hearing and vision.

- Health pathways
- [Early Childhood Intervention Services](#)
- Community Health Centres
- [Royal Children's Hospital Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)
- [Raising Children Website](#)

NOTE: Child / Adolescent Psychiatry:

- Austin Autism Assessment team is run via Austin iCYMHS. This service is for children under 12 years old (residing in the northeast catchment) who have particular diagnostic complexity. Referral must come from a paediatrician or child psychiatrist. Refer here: <https://www.austin.org.au/mental-health/autism-assessments>
- Specialist Mental Health services are run by Austin iCYMHS: ph. 1300 859 789
- Eating Disorder Referrals should be directed to Austin iCYMHS: ph. 1300 859 789