

## Paediatric Cardiology Clinic at Western Health:

Western Health provides Specialist Cardiology Clinic services for patients up to 17 years of age who require specialised assessment and management of actual, or suspected heart disease. The clinics are facilitated by Paediatric Cardiologists.

Referrals will be triaged by a Paediatric Cardiologist according to specific clinical requirements.

**Referrals may be triaged to alternative Paediatric Specialist Clinics at Western Health.**

Specialist Clinics are provided in the Joan Kirner Women's & Children's Sunshine Hospital.

## Conditions not seen by Paediatric Cardiology at Western Health:

- Children requiring 24 hour blood pressure monitoring - refer to the Nephrology department at the Royal Children's Hospital via [RCH Specialist Clinics Referrals](#).

**Acute conditions requiring immediate assessment – please refer the patient to the Sunshine Hospital Emergency Department.**

**NOTE: All paediatric cardiac emergencies and suspected cardiac emergencies must be referred to the Royal Children's Hospital Emergency Department.**

## Access & Referral Priority Paediatric Cardiology:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category.

The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

| <b>URGENT</b><br>Appointment timeframe 30 days   | <b>ROUTINE</b><br>Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.  |
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| <b>Cardiac Murmur</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants &lt; 6 months old with cardiac murmur</li> </ul>  | <b>Cardiac Murmur</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants &gt; 6 months old with cardiac murmur</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Infants with Syndromes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants &lt; 3 months old with Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome), or</li> <li>Other syndromes associated with significant congenital heart defects and no previous cardiology assessment.</li> </ul>   | <b>Sinus Ventricular Tachycardia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First presentation of Sinus Ventricular Tachycardia</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Syncope and Palpitations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recurrent syncope, palpitations or chest pain associated with sports; especially if family history of:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrhythmia</li> <li>Sudden cardiac death</li> <li>Cardiomyopathy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>Hereditary Cardiac Disease</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening for family history of hereditary cardiac conditions, such as:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult onset cardiomyopathy</li> <li>Bicuspid aortic valve</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kawasaki's Disease</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palpitations or chest pain with no concerning features.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute Rheumatic Fever</li> </ul>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease</li> </ul>   |  |



# Western Health Specialist Clinics Referral Guidelines

## Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health clinicians to triage patient referrals to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to Specialist Clinics, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you will be asked to return the referral with the required information. If this information is not received, the referral may be rejected.

| Condition:  | Key Information Points:  | Clinical Investigations  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Cardiac Murmur</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of murmur</li> <li>• Nature of murmur               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Ongoing, or</li> <li>➢ Present only with inter-current illness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Associated symptoms               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Poor exertion</li> <li>➢ Sport related symptoms</li> <li>➢ Syncope</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional concerns, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Poor weight gain</li> <li>➢ Family history</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External imaging or cardiac consultations if performed, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ ECG</li> <li>➢ CXR</li> <li>➢ Holter monitor</li> <li>➢ Echocardiogram</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> ECG, Holter monitor, +/- Echocardiogram will be performed in the Paediatric Specialist Clinics so not required prior to referral.</p> |
| <b>Syncope / Palpitations</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single or recurrent</li> <li>• Association with sports or other exertion</li> <li>• Family history of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Sudden cardiac death</li> <li>➢ Cardiomyopathy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External imaging or cardiac consultations if performed, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ ECG</li> <li>➢ CXR</li> <li>➢ Holter monitor</li> <li>➢ Echocardiogram</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> ECG, Holter monitor, +/- Echocardiogram will be performed in the Paediatric Specialist Clinics so not required prior to referral.</p> |
| <b>Family History</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear details of relatives involved and type of cardiac disease</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genetic testing if performed</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Prenatal Diagnosis of Congenital Heart Disease</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac lesion identified and details of imaging performed</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prenatal imaging results</li> <li>• Genetic testing if performed</li> </ul>   |