

Paediatric Occupational Therapy Clinics at Western Health:

Paediatric Occupational Therapy provides a service for children less than 2 years of age at time of referral at risk of or presenting with neurodevelopmental delays. The role of Occupational Therapy is to promote the participation of children in everyday activities. This may include self-care tasks (e.g. sleeping, eating, and bathing), play and early learning.

Patients will be triaged by a senior Occupational Therapist into one of the following management pathways according to specific clinical requirements:

1. **Sunshine Paediatric Occupational Therapy Newborn Services Clinic:**

A service for infants/babies aged less than 6 months at the time of referral who are at high risk for neurodevelopmental conditions and associated delays in self-care, motor skills, play and early learning, due to their neonatal history. This service is primarily for internal referral from Western Health Newborn Services however referrals from external services in Western region of Melbourne will be considered where an occupational therapy service is not available.

2. **Sunshine Paediatric Occupational Therapy Infant Care Service**

A service for children ≤ 24 months at time of referral who require assessment and short-term intervention for identified moderate to severe deficits in two or more areas of development which are impacting on participation in daily occupations (self-care, play and learning).

Referrals not seen at Western Health as services not provided:

- Children aged 2 years and over at time of referral.
- Children accessing Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Children with mild delays only or moderate delay in one domain will be redirected to community health services.
- Children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Infants and toddlers that require rehabilitation following an acute episode will be redirected to a more appropriate service.
- Infants and toddlers with complex medical issues may be redirected to specialist services.

Occupational Therapy Alarm Symptoms:

- Where an acute intervention is required please refer the patient to the Emergency Department. If there is still concern regarding the referral please call the Paediatric Specialists Outpatient number 8345 1727 and a clinician will respond to your call within 1 business day.

Access & Referral Priority Paediatric Occupational Therapy:

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.

URGENT Appointment timeframe 30 days	ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
N/A	Children requiring developmental surveillance and monitoring following special care nursery admission.
	Children presenting with significant <u>difficulties participating</u> in daily occupations and routines, associated with moderate to severe delays in 2 or more domains.

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to outpatients, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations
Newborn Services Babies less than 6 months of age at high risk of neurodevelopmental delay due to neonatal history (i.e. <32 weeks gestation, very low birth weight <1500gram, abnormal imaging/neurological signs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full name, DOB, address and Medicare number of child • Caregiver names and contact details • Interpreter required/preferred language • Birth, social/family & medical history • Court / custody orders in place • Reason for referral • Contact details of services and supports referred to / involved with child (e.g. Neonatologist, Paediatrician, National Disability Insurance Scheme) • Contact details and designation of referrer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant investigations (e.g. blood tests, genetic studies, MRI, CT). • Discharge summary from special care nursery. • Copies of reports and results of any formal developmental assessments.
Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations
Infant Care Neurodevelopmental delay with concerns in 2 or more areas of development (under 2 years of age).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full name, DOB, address and Medicare number of child • Caregiver names and contact details • Interpreter required/preferred language • Birth, social/family & medical history • Court / custody orders in place • Reason for referral • Contact details of services and supports referred to / involved with child (e.g. Paediatrician, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant investigations (e.g. blood tests, genetic studies, MRI, CT). • Copies of reports and results of any formal developmental, audiology or medical assessments.

Western Health Specialist Clinics Referral Guidelines

	<p>National Disability Insurance Scheme)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact details and designation of referrer	
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