



Neurosurgery Clinic Referral Guidelines for GPs

The Neurosurgery Clinic at Western Health is a high demand, high volume clinic. As a result, patients waiting for 'routine' outpatient appointments may experience a long wait, and many of these patients will not require neurosurgical intervention.

The Neurosurgical Unit have developed the following guidelines and associated Supporting clinical information form to triage your patient appropriately. Please review these guidelines before referring a patient to the Neurosurgery Clinic.

Patient eligibility	Referral requirements	Clinic staff
<p>Patients who require review by a neurosurgery team</p> <p>Please note this clinic does <u>not</u> provide services for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic back or neck pain without nerve root pain or neurological disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the VSRF is strongly encouraged Please include any relevant investigation results and ensure that the patient brings a copy of their films to their appointment. <p>Back & Neck Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For patients without neurological disturbance there is an expectation that conservative treatment/management has been trialled such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Physiotherapy Weight loss Anti-inflammatory medication Referrals must be submitted with a completed Western Health Back & Neck Supporting Clinical Information Form. Please note referrals for back & neck problems will not be accepted without a completed Back & Neck Supporting Clinical Information Form. GPs will be contacted to submit this before the referral can be triaged. <p style="text-align: center;">Fax referrals to 8345 6856</p>	<p>Patients will be assessed by either a Neurosurgeon or a specialised musculoskeletal physiotherapist in conjunction with Neurosurgery Consultants based on stringent guidelines and protocols.</p>

Please note referrals that do not provide adequate information for triaging may be returned with a request for further information. Western Health Outpatients strongly encourage the use of the Victorian State-wide Referral Form (VSRF). Copies can be downloaded from www.gpv.org.au.