

Monash Children's Hospital

Referral Guidelines

DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS

EXCLUSIONS

Services not offered by Monash Children's Hospital

For referrals of children with Complex Developmental Issues:

- Urgent referrals are not appropriate for this clinic. Suggest contact local paediatrician or ELMHS for urgent advice.
- Paediatrician or Child Psychiatrist referral is required. Direct GP referrals are not accepted.
- Assessment clinic only - no ongoing management clinic available.
- Referral for isolated allied health assessments not available.

For referrals of children with Spina Bifida:

- External urgent referrals not appropriate.
- GP or Paediatrician referral required.
- Referral for isolated allied health assessments not available.
- Antenatal counselling for neural tube defects is via referral from the Monash Foetal Diagnostic Unit only.

We see patients up to 18 years of age.

For referrals of children for FASD Assessment:

- External urgent referrals not appropriate.
- Paediatrician referral required. Direct GP referrals are not accepted
- Referral for isolated allied health assessments not available.
- Assessment clinic only - no ongoing management clinic available.
- Children aged 3-10 are assessed through Victorian Fetal Alcohol Service (VicFAS)
- Children aged 0-3 are assessed through the Jacana Clinic

CONDITIONS

[Complex developmental issues](#)

[Spina bifida](#)

[Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#)

PRIORITY

All referrals received are triaged by Monash Children's Hospital clinicians to determine urgency of referral.

EMERGENCY

For emergency cases please do any of the following:

- send the patient to the Emergency department OR
- Contact the on call registrar OR
- Phone 000 to arrange immediate transfer to ED

URGENT

Urgent referrals are not appropriate for these clinics. Please consider referral to a local paediatrician for urgent advice.

ROUTINE

The patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if the specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month

Head of unit:
Dr Katrina Harris

Program Director:
Prof Nick Freezer

Last updated:
20/02/2023



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REFERRAL

How to refer to
Monash
Children's
Hospital

**All external
referrals need to
be submitted via
HealthLink, no
faxed or emailed
referrals will be
accepted**

Internal referrals
are submitted via
SMR

Mandatory referral content

Demographic:

Full name
Date of birth
Next of kin
Postal address
Contact number(s)
Email address
Medicare number
Referring Paediatrician details
including **provider number**
Usual GP
Interpreter requirements

Clinical:

Reason for referral
Duration of symptoms
Management to date and response to
treatment
Past medical history
Current medications and medication
history if relevant
Functional status
Psychosocial history
Dietary status
Family history
Diagnostics as per referral guidelines

CONTACT US

General enquiries:

Phone: 8572 3004

FASD Services enquiries:

Phone: 8572 3773

Submit a referral

Referrals should be to:

Dr K Harris (Developmental Paediatrics)

Dr K Harris (FASD Services)

Dr S Hennel (Spina bifida clinic)

Phone: (03) 8572 3004

Head of unit:

Dr Katrina Harris

Program Director:

Prof Nick Freezer

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COMPLEX DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES

COMPLEX DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES REQUIRING TERTIARY MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT



WHEN TO REFER?

Presentations may include

- Developmental concerns in a number of areas
- Autism for assessment
- 22q11 deletion syndrome and other genetic conditions (Developmental assessment)
- Other

Initial Paediatrician/ Child Psych Work Up

- Check hearing
- Check vision
- Referral to local allied health as indicated.
- Referral to [Early intervention](#) services, as appropriate.
- School report outlining concerns.

Management Options for GP

Referral to local General paediatric or Child Youth Mental Health services

Routine

The Developmental Paediatrics Clinic provides multidisciplinary assessment only. Ongoing long term management is not provided.

Access to the service requires paediatrician/child psychiatrist referral.

SPINA BIFIDA

Spina Bifida

Initial GP Work Up

- Check hearing
- Check vision
- Referral to local allied health as indicated.
- Referral to [Early intervention](#) services, as appropriate.

Management Options for GP

Referral to local General paediatric services

WHEN TO REFER?

Routine

Patients, under 18 years presenting with spina bifida/neural tube defects who have long term complex needs

FASD Services

Victorian Fetal Alcohol Service - VicFAS

- Confirm prenatal alcohol exposure
- Confirmation of any assessments already conducted
- Obtain consent from the legal guardian for FASD referral

Initial GP Work Up

- Check hearing
- Check vision
- Referral to local allied health as indicated.
- Referral to [Early intervention](#) services, as appropriate.

Management Options for GP

Referral to local General paediatric services

WHEN TO REFER?

Routine

Patients 3-10 with developmental and behavioural concerns, and a history of prenatal alcohol exposure.

Access to the service requires referral by a paediatrician.

The patient must reside in Victoria

Jacana Clinic

- Confirm prenatal alcohol exposure
- Obtain consent from legal guardian for referral
- Antenatal enquiries can also be made.
- Referral to [Early intervention](#) services, as appropriate.

Initial GP Work Up

- Check hearing
- Check vision
- Referral to local allied health as indicated.
- Referral to [Early intervention](#) services, as appropriate.

Management Options for GP

Referral to local General paediatric services

WHEN TO REFER?

Routine

Babies and young children aged 0-3 years with confirmed prenatal exposure to alcohol, where there are concerns about their current or future development.

Referrals can be made by GP's, obstetricians and paediatricians.