

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.

CONDITIONS

[Complex developmental issues](#)

[Spina bifida](#)

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

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REFERRAL

How to refer to
Monash Children's
Hospital

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

Medical practitioners

Complex Developmental Assessment
referral as per specific guidelines.

General enquiries

Phone: 8572 3004

Submit a referral

Referrals should be to:

Dr K Harris (Developmental Paediatrics)

Dr S Hennel (Spina bifida clinic)

Refer via electronic referral using
HealthLink. Details available at

<https://monashchildrenshospital.org/for-health-professionals/gp-ereferrals/>



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
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 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.
- 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.

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SPINA BIFIDA

Spina Bifida

Initial GP Work Up

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

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

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