

# REFERRAL GUIDELINES

## Neurology Clinic

### Head of Unit **Dr Ernie Butler**

**Referrals** Referral addressed to named head of unit is preferred.

E-referral using the GP Referral Template located within the Mastercare Referralnet system is preferred. Fax Referrals to :**9788 1879**.

Please Note: The referral should not be given to the patient to arrange an appointment. No appointments can be made over the phone. Once a referral has been received, the patient is notified by mail of the date and time of their appointment.

### Clinic overview :

To assess and/or manage patients with serious neurological conditions

### Minimum Referral Information Required:

- Referring practitioner name, provider number and signature.
- Date of referral
- Patient's name, address, date of birth, Medicare number and phone number.
- Clinical details and reason for referral including symptomatic history, possible diagnosis and/or injury
- Relevant medical history
- Medications
- Allergies
- Results of all recent and relevant investigation

Please see statewide criteria link below:

<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/specialities>

### Categories for Appointment

	Clinical Description	Timeframe
<b>Emergency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapidly progressive neurological symptoms</li> <li>• <b>Please see statewide referral criteria</b> for details on emergency conditions for Headache, Epilepsy &amp; Seizures, Motor weakness ,Movement Disorder ,Stroke and Vertigo</li> </ul> <p><b>Seizure with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focal deficit post-ictally</li> <li>• seizure associated with recent trauma</li> <li>• persistent severe headache &gt; 1 hour post-ictally</li> </ul>	<b>Immediately via Emergency Department</b>

### **IMPORTANT:**

The following referral information is mandatory:

#### Referral:

- Date of referral
- Speciality
- Referring practitioner name
- Provider Number
- Referrer's signature

#### Patient Demographic:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Postal address
- Contact numbers
- Medicare Number
- Interpreter required

#### Clinical:

- Reason for referral
- Duration of symptoms
- Management to date
- Past medical history
- Current medications
- Allergies
- Diagnostics as per referral guidelines

#### Preferred:

- Addressed to named practitioner
- Duration of referral (if different to standard referral validity)
- Email address
- Next of kin

**HEAD OF UNIT**  
Dr Ernie Butler

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizure with fever</li> <li>• Prolonged or recurrent seizure (more than one in 24 hours) with incomplete recovery</li> <li>• Persisting altered level of consciousness.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Headache with:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden onset or thunderclap headache</li> <li>• Severe headache with signs of systemic illness (fever, neck stiffness, vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, dehydration)</li> <li>• Severe disabling headache</li> <li>• Severe headache associated with recent head trauma.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Headache suggesting temporal arteritis:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (focal neurological symptoms, altered vision, elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C -reactive protein in patients &gt; 50 years of age).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Rapidly progressive neurological symptoms leading to weakness or imbalance.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute onset of a movement disorder e.g. severe ataxia, dystonia, hemiballismus</li> <li>• Acute dystonic crisis</li> <li>• Acute akinetic crisis</li> <li>• Neuroleptic malignant syndrome</li> <li>• Device-related infection in people with deep brain stimulator implants.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Transient ischaemic attack(s)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In last 48 hours</li> <li>• Multiple or recurrent transient ischaemic attack episodes in the last seven days</li> <li>• Amaurosis fugax in last 48 hours</li> <li>• Persistent neurological deficit.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Vertigo</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden onset debilitating vertigo where the patient is unsteady on their feet or unable to walk without assistance</li> <li>• Sudden onset vertigo with other neurological signs or symptoms(e.g. dysphasia, hemiparesis, diplopia, facial weakness)</li> <li>• Barotrauma with sudden onset of vertigo</li> </ul>	<p><b>Immediately via Emergency Department</b></p>
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<b>Category 1 Urgent</b>	Urgent symptoms must be discussed with the Neurology Registrar by calling switchboard on <b>9784 7777</b>	<b>Within 30 days</b>
<b>Category 2 Routine</b>	All other cases	<b>Up to 3 months/ Next Available</b>

### Eligibility Criteria

Peninsula Health Catchment preferred

Adults with serious neurological disorders such as:

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Epilepsy
- Movement Disorders
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Frequent blackouts
- Trigeminal neuralgia
- Undiagnosed neurological disorders
- Planning for pregnancy or pregnancy with epilepsy.

Benchmark with DHHS Statewide Referral Criteria if appropriate

- Epilepsy & Seizures  
<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/epilepsy-and-seizures>
- Motor weakness or paraesthesia  
<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/motor-weakness-or-paraesthesia>
- Vertigo  
<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/vertigo-neurology>

### Exclusions

- Stroke
- Children under 16 years
- Patients requiring immediate neurological attention

Benchmark with DHHS Statewide Referral criteria if appropriate

- Headache  
<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/headache>

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### Alternative referral options

- TIA Clinic Peninsula Health
- Movement Disorders Program Peninsula Health
- Monash Health Neurology Department
- Private services

### Clinic information

**Tuesdays** 1330 - 1630

Outpatient Department, Frankston Hospital – Integrated Health Centre

- The referral will be triaged by the consultant prior to the patient being contacted by Outpatients staff with appointment details.
- All patients require a referral from a Specialist or General Practitioner.
- We aim to see patients within the above timeframes; however, due to the high demand the wait times maybe significantly longer.

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