

REFERRAL GUIDELINES

Transient Ischaemic Attack Clinic

Head of Clinic: Dr Jayantha Rupasinghe

Referrals: Referral addressed to named head of clinic is preferred or Head of Unit: **Prof Ernest Butler**.

E-referral using the GP Referral Template located within the Mastercare Referralnet system is preferred.

For faxed referrals: FAX **97881879**

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 of the date and time of their appointment.

Clinic overview:

The TIA clinic provide expert opinion in assessment or follow up of transient ischaemic attack (TIA), transient neurological spells (TNS) or non-acute stroke.

The clinic will also see selected non-acute stroke patients for expert management advice after completion of the relevant investigations and treatment options from GPs. The TIA clinic will accept TIA patients discharged from Peninsula Health after the initial workup and treatment initiation as per TIA assessment criteria from ED as well as selected patients discharged from the stroke unit.

- The Single Visit Specialist TIA clinic aims to provide planned non-admitted services that require the focus of an acute setting to ensure the best outcome for a patient. TIA patients requiring further specialist assessment for management issues will return for a review.
- TIA Clinic aims to provide access to comprehensive medical, and nursing for assessment, diagnosis and treatment. (For allied health, see alternative referral options).
- Aims for collaboration with specialist providers from cardiology, vascular and other relevant specialities, as indicated.

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)
- Next of kin

HEAD OF UNIT

Ernie Butler

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr Gary Braun

ENQUIRIES

P: (03) 9784 2600

F: 03) 9788 1879

Reviewed: October 2022

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Minimum Referral Information Required

Please note: referral cannot be processed if minimum information is missing.

- 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
- Relevant medical history
- Medications
- Allergies
- Results of all recent and relevant investigation.

Information that must be provided:

- Timing and severity of symptoms
- Neuroimaging results
- Vascular imaging results
- Current and complete medication history (including non-prescription medicines, herbs and supplements).

Provide if available:

- Full blood examination
- Liver function tests
- Fasting blood glucose level
- Fasting lipid profile
- Any echocardiogram or Holter monitor results
- International normalised ration (INR) > 1.5 in patients taking an anticoagulant medicine.

➤ **For Urgent attention or should an early Assessment required, GPs are encouraged to contact: **Neurology Registrar** on 9784 7804**

Categories for Appointment

	Clinical Description	Timeframe
Emergency	<p>Transient ischaemic attack(s) in last 48 hours</p> <p>Multiple or recurrent transient ischaemic attack episodes in the last seven days</p> <p>Amaurosis fugax in last 48 hours</p> <p>Persistent neurological deficit.</p>	<p>Immediate via Emergency Department</p>

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Category 1A Urgent (Needs urgent assessment before seen at the TIA Clinic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Internal Carotid Artery Stenosis (>70% stenosis) Atrial Fibrillation 	Urgent attention and start relevant treatment by the Referring doctor. Urgently contact Neurology Registrar on 97847804 for treatment options. Do not wait until seen at the TIA clinic.
Category 1B Semi-Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected patients by the Neurology Registrar or Consultant eg Transient ischaemic attack(s) that has/have occurred more than 48 hours ago and within the last two week 	Needs early assessment within 2 weeks at the TIA Clinic. Needs approval by the Neurology Registrar after an initial over the phone consult Contact PH 97847804
Category 2A Routine (ED and inpatient referrals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIA's or TIA mimics (TNS's) discharged from ED using the TIA clinic referral form. Any TIA's or TNS's discharged from medical or neurology unit. Selected stroke patients discharged from the neurology unit after seen by the neurologist to follow up investigations Young stroke (under 60 years of age) 	Next Available appointment unless specified by the Neurology Registrar. Should an early assessment required, GPs are encouraged to contact neurology Registrar on 9784 7804
Category 2B Routine (GP referrals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any non-acute TIA/stroke referrals. Internal carotid stenosis (> 50%) on imaging with symptoms (excluding dizziness alone), more than two weeks after onset of symptoms Asymptomatic internal carotid stenosis > 70% on imaging An old stroke identified on imaging that has not been previously addressed. 	Next Available Appointment unless specified by the Neurology Registrar. Should an early Assessment required, GPs are encouraged to contact Neurology Registrar on 9784 7804

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Category 3 Routine Referrals from Rehabilitation unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected stroke patients discharged from the rehabilitation unit for critical management decisions. 	Next Available Appointment unless specified by the Neurology Registrar.
Category 3A Special requests and for Research purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up of any stroke patients after receiving IV thrombolysis Follow up of TIA patients for research purpose 	3 months follow-up post thrombolysis. On research Consultant or assistant's discretion

Eligibility Criteria

- The TIA clinic will accept, discharge TIA patients after the initial workout and treatment initiation as per TIA assessment criteria from ED and selected patients discharged from stroke unit.
- Selected non-acute stroke patients after completing the relevant investigations and treatment options from GPs for expert management advise

Any TIA or Stroke patients that meet the above criteria for an appointment

Benchmark with DHHS Statewide referral criteria

<https://src.health.vic.gov.au/stroke-or-transient-ischaemic-attack>

Preferred living within Peninsula Health catchment

Exclusions

- Not for routine follow-up of every stroke patient under the Neurology Unit or stroke detours programme or Rehabilitation Units unless eligibility criteria are met.
- An old stroke identified on imaging that has been previously addressed
- Age appropriate, asymptomatic deep white matter disease or T2 hyperintense lesions
- Chronic vascular risk factors without an acute transient ischaemic attack or stroke
- Primary prevention of vascular risk.
- Patients with Neurological disorders other than TIA/Stroke as per eligibility criteria

Alternative referral options

- Neurological (Stroke) Rehabilitation Clinic at Golf Links Road Rehabilitation Centre.
- General Neurology and MS Clinic of Frankston Hospital
- Epilepsy Clinic of Frankston Hospital
- Movement Disorder Clinic at Golf Links Road Rehabilitation Centre.

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- Private neurology
- For allied health professionals for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment (eligible patients will be referred through ACCESS programme for allied health services)
- Private services

Clinic information

- **Wednesdays** = 1330-1700
- Frankston Hospital Outpatient Area 01 2, Hastings Rd, Frankston

All TIA Clinic referrals to be triaged by the Neurology Registrar, three times a week and contact selected TIA patients requiring critical and urgent measures.

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