

Criteria for Orthopaedic Referrals

GPs and other referrers to use the following criteria to evaluate and prioritise patients for referral to Hutt Hospital.

| # | Priority | Timeframe | Criteria | Examples |
|---|---------------|--------------|---|--|
| | Immediate | 1 week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong evidence of malignancy Disc prolapse with significant neurological deficit including possible cauda equina | The following do require immediate intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot drop Sphincter loss Fracture on community x-ray |
| | Urgent | 2-4 Weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe functional impairment, significant pain, poor analgesic control. Delay would mean significant risk of permanent disability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteoarthritis with avascular necrosis Severe sciatica with red flags Tendon rupture Possible DDH Prosthetic infection |
| | Semi Urgent A | 1 – 4 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate functional impairment Moderate to severe pain with reasonable control, moderate analgesic control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteoarthritis of major joint with significant pain and restriction Significant cuff tear with functional loss and pain Moderate to severe sciatica Tib post disease Severe carpal tunnel Symptomatic loosening of major joint arthroplasty |

The following should not be referred to Hutt Hospital (referrals will be returned to GP care)

| Description | Examples |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal symptomatology No effect on employment No aids for daily living | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ganglia Chronic conditions of neck and back Cosmetic lesions Minor orthopaedic problems |

Semi urgent referrals will be accepted to match our capacity to both see and treat within timeframes so those that are more severe will be seen first.

Document Management

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