



Queensland  
Government

Children’s Health Services

Royal Children’s Hospital

**Neurology**

**Consultant Clinics**

**Headache - concerning features**

Initial work-up	Refer when	Data needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical examination and history</li> </ul> <p><u>Concerning features:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headaches that wake at night or headaches immediately on wakening</li> <li>Headaches associated with vomiting</li> <li>Headaches associated with alterations in loss of consciousness</li> <li>No family history of migraine</li> <li>Any abnormalities on neurological examination, such as: focal weakness, weakness, gait disturbance, papilledema, diplopia</li> <li>Headaches associated with change in mood, mental status or school performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referral to a General Paediatrician is indicated if there is a history of recurrent headaches with none of the concerning features ± family history of migraine. The General Paediatrician will refer to a Paediatric Neurologist as appropriate.</li> <li>If any of the concerning features are present, <b>urgent referral to the Emergency Department</b> is required</li> <li>Note: if headache occurs with shunt in situ → <b>urgent referral</b> to neurosurgeon required</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bring to appointment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any investigations</li> <li>Note: CT scan is not usually recommended when the neurological examination is normal.</li> </ul>

Clinical Advice: Tel (07) 3636 3777 and ask for Paediatric Neurology Registrar or A/H (07) 3636 9005 Emergency Department

Referral Form Download: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp\\_referrals.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp_referrals.asp)

Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department  
HealthLink Address - [qldrchld](http://qldrchld) Royal Children’s Hospital  
Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029

See final page for references, copyright, disclaimer and further contact details.

Provision of named referrals for all patients referred to the RCH will expedite patient access

## Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Neurology



### Contact us

RCH Switchboard	(07) 3636 3777
Emergency Department	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPs only (clinical advice) (07) 3636 9005</li> <li>• General enquiries (07) 3636 8085</li> <li>• Triage nurse (07) 3636 7900</li> <li>• ED Admission enquiries (07) 3636 7700</li> </ul>	
Admission Enquiries	(07) 3636 8307
Admission Enquiries After Hours (via the RCH Main Switch)	(07) 3636 3777
Poisons Information Centre	131126
<b>Seriously Unwell Child: RCH Emergency Department</b>	<b>(07) 3636 9005</b>

### Copyright and disclaimer

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These guidelines were reviewed and developed by specialists at the Royal Children's Hospital and reviewed by a working group of metropolitan general practitioners in Queensland.

Feedback or suggestions welcomed. Contact the **Patient Safety and Quality Unit:** [CHSD-PSQU@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHSD-PSQU@health.qld.gov.au)

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