

Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Neurology



**Queensland
Government**

Children's Health Services

Royal Children's Hospital

Neurology

Consultant Clinics

Weak child

Initial work-up

- Clinical examination and history including:
 - Can child get up from floor easily?
 - Can child jump?
 - Muscle wasting and weakness
 - Hypotonia
 - Swallowing difficulties
 - Breathing difficulties
 - Ptosis or ophthalmoplegia
 - Reflexes – reduced or absent
 - Tongue fasciculations
 - Speech delay
 - Intellectual impairment
- Relevant investigations
 - Creatine kinase (CK)

NB: If elevated transaminases (Liver Function Tests) always perform a CK level

Refer when

- Refer all patients with suspected weakness to General Paediatrician who will refer to a Paediatric Neurologist as appropriate

Urgent referral to Emergency Department for:

- Acute onset of weakness
- Breathing difficulties
- Swallowing difficulties
- Associated with altered consciousness

Data needed

Bring to appointment:

- Any investigations
- Family history

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

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

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

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

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Contact us

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

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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

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