

OUTPATIENT SERVICE DESCRIPTION & TRIAGE GUIDELINES

EAR, NOSE & THROAT SERVICES

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)

Description of Service

ENT services are provided at Flinders Medical Centre.

Click on the following links for referral and management guidelines for specific conditions. All required information and investigations outlined in these links need to be provided on the referral to enable appropriate triaging. Referrals that do not include enough required information to triage will be returned to the referring doctor.

- [Sinus and Nasal Disorders](#)
- [Laryngeal and Voice Disorders](#)
- [Tonsillectomy and adenotonsillectomy](#)
- [Head and Neck Disorders](#)
- [Obstructive Sleep Apnoea and Snoring Disorders](#)

Services provided

- Sinus and skull base surgery
- Head and neck surgery
- Sleep apnoea
- Sleep disordered breathing surgery
- Laryngology (voice)
- Otology and cochlear implant
- General paediatrics
- General adult ENT

Services Not Provided

- [Chronic Otitis Externa](#)
- [Cosmetic Rhinoplasty](#)
- [TMJ/Dental Issues](#)
- [Auditory Processing Disorders](#)
- [Requests for hearing aids for bi-lateral down-sloping high frequency symmetrical sensorineural hearing loss](#)

Hearing assessments should be referred directly to the Audiology Department on fax 8204 8941

For admission or *URGENT* advice contact the ENT Registrar

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)

Ph: (08) 8204 5511

Approved by Prof Eng Ooi

For appointments contact the ENT clinic

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)

Fax: (08) 8374 4928

Date:

Triage Criteria for Referral

Category 1 Target within 4 week Current < 4 weeks	Category 2 Target within 3 months Current paediatrics 1½ yrs Current adults 1 yr	Category 3 Target within 6 months Current paediatrics > 3 yrs Current Adults > 3 yrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head & Neck Cancer • Enlarging neck mass • Persistent ulcer in mouth or throat (>1 month) • Abnormal imaging where malignancy is suspected • Persistent sore throat (>1 month) and unilateral ear pain • Persistent hoarseness in a current smoker or recently reformed smoker (stopped within a year) • Persistent hoarseness in a patient with a known gastric, lung or ENT malignancy • Progressive dysphagia with weight loss • Facial palsy and a discharging ear/ear pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholesteatoma diagnosis or suspicion • Speech or developmental delay in a child with a hearing loss greater than 30dB average • Child with congenital syndromes that affect their learning and development and/or a hearing loss greater than 30dB average • Recurrent acute otitis media (> 3 infections in 6 months or >4 in a year) • Sleep disordered breathing / OSA in a child between aged 2 to 12 years (refer to WCH directly if age < 2 years or < 15 kg weight) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrent acute sinusitis (> 3 infections in 6 months or >4 in a year) • Chronic sinusitis (continuous symptoms > 3 months) • Epistaxis • Snoring • Obstructive sleep apnoea (mild) in an adult intolerant of CPAP or primary snoring • Otitis externa • Tonsillitis • Tinnitus • Chronic hearing loss • Tympanic membrane perforations

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
3.0	November 2014	November 2016	Addition of 'Tonsillectomy and Adenotonsillectomy'
3.1	November 2016	November 2018	Review Nov 16

- Fractured nose within 7 days of injury
- Persistent unilateral nasal discharge mixed with blood > 1 month
- Orbital complications from sinusitis
- CSF rhinorrhea (Beta-2 transferrin positive nasal fluid)
- Enlarging neck mass
- Persistent ulcer in mouth or throat (> 1 month)
- Facial palsy and a discharging ear/ear pain
- Sudden severe hearing loss
- Abnormal imaging where malignancy is suspected
- Persistent hoarseness in a current smoker or recently reformed smoker (stopped within a year)
- Persistent hoarseness in a patient with a known gastric, lung or ENT malignancy
- Persistent sore throat (> 2 months) and unilateral ear pain
- Progressive dysphagia

- Moderate to severe Obstructive sleep apnoea (sleep study result attached) in an adult intolerant of CPAP
 - Benign head and neck, thyroid masses
- Chronic sinusitis with red flags

- Vertigo
- 'Globus' – sensation of a lump in the throat with no other voice or swallowing symptoms



General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients