

Upper Limb Orthopaedic clinic

Outpatient service information, triage and referral guidelines

Description of Service:

The Orthopaedic and Trauma Service of the Royal Adelaide Hospital provides inpatient and outpatient care for patients living in the CALHN area who suffer from upper limb problems.

Services Provided:

- > Outpatient clinic consultations for diagnosis and management
 - o osteoarthritis
 - o inflammatory arthritis
 - o post traumatic arthritis
 - o frozen shoulder
 - o shoulder instability
 - o rotator cuff disease / impingement
 - o septic arthritis
- > Post-operative reviews
- > Virtual clinic for reviews from country areas and nursing homes
- > Inpatient consultations and admission

Exclusions:

- > Second opinions for patients that have been previously assessed or treated by an orthopaedic specialist from an institution that has the ability to provide an in-house second opinion.
- > Service for compensable patients unless they have been admitted via the emergency department in an emergency situation e.g. motor vehicle accidents, work cover, department of veteran affairs, other third party or public liability claims.
- > Patients that are known to another institution for a particular problem**
- > ***transfer of care from another specialist may be accepted if the patients surgical requirements are too complex or the patient's medical condition means that the surgery would be safer performed in a tertiary institution.***

For admission or **URGENT** advice contact the Orthopaedic Registrar:

Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Ph: (08) 7074 0000

Alternatively, if the problem is urgent and the patient is unstable, the patient should be sent directly to the Emergency Department of the nearest hospital for assessment.

For more information or to make a referral contact

Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH)

Fax: (08) 7074 6247

Ph: 1300 153 853

Essential Referral Content:

Demographic

- > Date of birth
- > Contact details (including mobile phone)
- > Referring GP details
- > Interpreter requirements
- > Medicare number

Clinical

- > Reason for referral
- > Duration of symptoms
- > Relevant pathology and imaging reports
- > Past medical history
- > Current medications



Adult Triage Criteria for referral

Emergency	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<p>Direct to Emergency Department and phone the on call registrar.</p>	<p>Target within 4 weeks</p> <p>Urgent cases must be discussed with the on call registrar</p>	<p>Target within 3 months</p>	<p>Greater than 3 months</p> <p>See SA Health Median and Maximum Outpatient Waiting Time</p> <p><u>Expected long wait</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Septic arthritis > Acute dislocation > AC joint dislocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Osteomyelitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Carpal tunnel > Ulnar nerve dysfunction > Dupuytren's contracture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Impingement / cuff tendinopathy > Frozen shoulder > Other instability > Ultrasound proven cuff lesion > SLAP/Bankart lesion > Shoulder osteoarthritis > Calcific tendonitis

General information to assist with referrals and the referral templates for the RAH & TQEH are available to download from the CALHN Outpatient Services [website](#)

For more information or to make a referral

Royal Adelaide Hospital: Level 3G, Wing 6
 Referral Fax Number: (08) 7074 6247
 Phone Number: 1300 153 853

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Ground Floor, Area 3
 Referral Fax Number: (08) 8222 6233
 Phone Number: (08) 8222 7020

Web: www.sahealth.gov.au

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 Orthopaedics unit

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