

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Spinal Outpatient Services Clinical Information Sheet

Clinical Condition	Acute Cauda Equina Syndrome
Eligibility	Presentation involves a combination of the following features (over 1-2 days): • Lower limb symptoms: unilateral or bilateral/asymmetrical • Disturbance of bladder, bowel and/or erectile function • Saddle anaesthesia Variable lower limb neurological deficits including weakness, reduced or absent reflexes, altered sensation
Priority	IMMEDIATE If acute cauda equina syndrome is suspected immediate specialist consultation is indicated. Refer patient immediately to the Emergency Department and contact the Spinal Fellow/Registrar at the RAH via switch: (08) 7074 0000
Investigations required with referral	No investigations required for referral. An urgent MRI is required and will be requested by specialist.
Discharge Criteria/information	Discharge after appropriate investigation and management. Immediate surgical intervention may be indicated.
Fact sheets	Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/lumbardisorders

For more information:
Spinal Outpatient Clinics
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www.sahealth.gov.au