

Fact sheet

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Neurosurgery Outpatient Services

Clinical Information Sheet

| Clinical Condition | Acute Cauda Equina Syndrome |
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| Eligibility | <p>Presentation involves a combination of the following features (over 1-2 days):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower limb symptoms: unilateral or bilateral/asymmetrical• Disturbance of bladder, bowel and/or erectile function• Saddle anaesthesia <p>Variable lower limb neurological deficits including weakness, reduced or absent reflexes, altered sensation</p> |
| Priority | <p><u>IMMEDIATE</u></p> <p>If acute cauda equina syndrome is suspected immediate specialist consultation is indicated.</p> <p>Refer patient immediately to the Emergency Department and contact the neurosurgery Fellow/Registrar at the RAH via switch: (08) 7074 0000</p> |
| Investigations required with referral | <p>No investigations required for referral. An urgent MRI is required and will be requested by specialist.</p> |
| Discharge Criteria/information | <p>Discharge after appropriate investigation and management. Immediate surgical intervention may be indicated.</p> |

For more information

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