

Fact sheet

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Spinal Outpatient Services Clinical Information Sheet

Clinical Condition	Acute Cauda Equina Syndrome
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>IMMEDIATE</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 Spinal 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>
Fact sheets	<p>Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/lumbardisorders</p>

For more information:
Spinal Outpatient Clinics
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Telephone: 08 8707 4000
www.sahealth.gov.au