

# Hip and Knee Orthopaedic clinic

Outpatient service information, triage and referral guidelines

## Clinical features indicative of potentially serious pathology

### General hip and knee

Hip fracture – hip pain associated with history of trauma

Malignancy – hip or knee symptoms associated with red flags symptoms

- ▣ Night pain
- ▣ Anorexia/weight loss
- ▣ Malaise +/- history of cancer

Septic joint – severe pain, joint swelling and systematically unwell patient

Peri-prosthetic fractures – severe pain, inability to mobilise

### Post-operative patients

#### Elective Surgery

Symptoms – severe pain, swelling increased local temperature, history of trauma / injury to relevant site post-surgery

Infection – wound related issues, cellulitis, swelling, systematically unwell patient

#### Prosthetic hip dislocation

DVT/PE – calf swelling, pain, tender to touch – For GP investigation and if positive discuss with orthopaedic registrar on-call via the RAH switchboard on (08) 7074 0000 or TQEH switchboard (08) 8222 6000 regarding anti-coagulation trauma.

Compartment syndrome – pain excessive of that expected for injury, swelling

Infection – wound related issues, cellulitis, swelling, systematically unwell patient.

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 2  
 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](http://www.sahealth.gov.au)

Acknowledgement: This document has had the final approval from the head of unit:

Dr ????????

Version	Approved date	Review date	Ammendment
Draft V0.1	20181005	20191005	