

The outpatient clinic responsibilities

- > To provide quality healthcare which is suitable to your condition.
- > To make sure information is sent to your GP/ referring healthcare provider with advice for the future management of your condition.
- > To treat you with care, consideration and courtesy.

Your responsibilities

As a patient waiting for an outpatient appointment, we ask that you:

- > follow the procedures and advice outlined in any information given to you by the clinic
- > inform the clinic if you change address or your telephone contact details
- > inform the clinic if you are unable to attend or no longer need your outpatient appointment
- > inform the clinic if you require an interpreter
- > treat staff with consideration and courtesy.

Remember, if you do not tell us that you have moved, we have no way of telling you about your appointment.

For general enquiries

Please contact the hospital concerned and ask for the clinic detailed in your letter:

GP Superclinic, Modbury (08) 7425 8700
Royal Adelaide Hospital (08) 7074 0000
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (08) 8222 6000

Please refer any questions about this information to your treating medical officer, nursing and/or clerical staff.

The information contained within this publication is for general information only. Readers should always seek independent, professional advice where appropriate. Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) will not accept any liability for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information in this publication.

Further information, including your rights and responsibilities, can be found at: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Spinal Assessment Clinic

A guide to your spinal assessment appointment



Patient Information



This document has been reviewed and endorsed for consumers and the community by Royal Adelaide Hospital Consumer Advisory Council: February 2008. Author: CALHN Back Pain Work Group.



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What is the Spinal Assessment Clinic?

The Spinal Assessment Clinic is a specialist outpatient service for patients referred by their local doctor (GP) for diagnosis or advice regarding the management of their back pain.

Who will I see?

You will see a skilled physiotherapist, or a GP with special interest in back pain, who works closely with the spinal surgeons.

You will receive a detailed assessment from which a management plan for your condition will be formed and discussed with you.

Should you need tests, X-rays, scans or review with a spinal surgeon, this will be arranged at your appointment. A summary report and recommendations will be provided to your referring GP.

How long will I wait for my appointment?

Waiting times for your specialist outpatient appointment will vary depending on:

- > the urgency of your condition
- > how many other patients are waiting for an appointment at the same clinic.



What if I am unable to attend my appointment?

If you are unable to attend any of your appointments, it is important you contact the outpatient clinic so that a more suitable time can be arranged.

Notice and reason must be given before your appointment date if you are unable to attend, otherwise you may be removed from the appointment system.

What do I bring to my appointment?

- > Any recent X-rays, scans or test results relevant to your current condition.
- > Your referral letter.
- > A list of your current medications.
- > Your Medicare card, Veterans' Affairs pension/healthcare card.

Are you travelling a long distance to attend your appointment?

It is advised that if you are travelling a long distance to attend your outpatient appointment, you contact the clinic to confirm details before starting your journey.

What role does my GP play?

Your GP is an important partner in your health care. It is strongly advised that you keep your regular appointments with your GP while waiting for your specialist outpatient appointment.

Your GP will:

- > provide ongoing management following your clinic assessment
- > make contact with the hospital if there is any change in your condition.

Unless you advise us otherwise, information related to your management will be shared with your GP.