

## URGENT NEUROLOGY CLINIC REFERRAL GUIDELINE

Adult patients requiring a new, outpatient consultation with a neurologist within 5 BUSINESS DAYS

State why the referral is urgent.

Fax: 403 270 1848

### INCLUSION CRITERIA

#### NEW and/or progressive (over days or weeks; < 3 months)

Weakness (objective finding, focal)

Binocular visual changes (neurological: diplopia, homonymous hemianopia etc.)

Bulbar symptoms (dysarthria, dysphagia)

Aphasia

Worrisome headaches (with new neurological findings, thunderclap with normal investigations)

Focal neurological deficits

New neurological symptoms in a pregnant or immunocompromised person

#### NEW episode(s) of altered awareness or unexplained loss of consciousness (non-cardiac)

1<sup>st</sup> Seizure

Transient global amnesia

Referrals approved by the STAFF neurologist on-call Neurology staff to email: [CAL.uncfmc@ahs.ca](mailto:CAL.uncfmc@ahs.ca) to notify of approved referral

### EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Bell's palsy: *if concern for stroke discuss with stroke team*

Chronic neurological conditions

Concussion and Post-concussion Syndrome: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/cbip.aspx>

Isolated vertigo: *see specialist clinical pathway*

[https://www.specialistlink.ca/files/Vertigo\\_Enhanced\\_Primary\\_Care\\_Pathway\\_Final\\_April\\_2018\\_color.pdf](https://www.specialistlink.ca/files/Vertigo_Enhanced_Primary_Care_Pathway_Final_April_2018_color.pdf)

Monocular vision loss: *refer to ophthalmology*

Neurosurgical/ Spine/ Trauma related concerns (e.g. cauda equina, low back pain without deficits)

Pain without neurological deficit (including facial pain)

Subjective neurological symptoms

Syncope

Temporal arteritis: *refer to plastic surgery and internal medicine/rheumatology*

Transient Ischemic Attack: *refer to Stroke Prevention Clinic*

Need for neurological procedures: *Lumbar puncture is not available at urgent neurology clinic*

Patients who are:

- briefly visiting from out of province
- requiring admission
- currently admitted
- seen in ER by neurologist service: *attending neurologist to decide disposition and follow-up*
- under the care of a neurologist for same issue
- requesting medicolegal, WCB claims
- requesting second opinions