

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria Factsheet

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) are clinical decision support tools that will help ensure patients referred for public specialist outpatient services in Queensland are assessed in order of clinical urgency. CPC are one component of the Specialist Outpatient Strategy designed to improve access to specialist services.

CPC will be used by both referring practitioners when referring into the Queensland public hospital system and Queensland public specialist outpatient services when determining how quickly the patient should be seen (urgency category).

CPC will ensure referrers to Queensland public specialist outpatient services have access to evidence-based condition-specific referral requirements

CPC have been developed to improve patients' specialist outpatient experience. They aim to ensure:

- Equitable assessment of patients regardless of where they live
- Specialist outpatient appointments that are delivered in order of clinical urgency
- Patients are ready for care at their first specialist outpatient appointment
- Improved referral and communication processes between referrers and specialist outpatient services.

CPC assist, rather than replace, clinical judgment and decision-making

Developed by clinicians

CPC are developed by a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians to ensure that the criteria are clinically relevant. A Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) was established for each specialty and a medical specialist appointed as the Clinical Lead.

Tested for quality assurance

CPC have been tested in clinical environments for quality assurance and impact assessment. The results continue to inform ongoing development and implementation of CPC.

Specialties already developed

- Cardiology
- Diabetes and Endocrinology (*adult and paediatric*)
- ENT (*adult and paediatric*)
- Endoscopy
- Gastroenterology
- General Medicine
- General Paediatrics
- General Surgery
- Genetics: Cancer and General (*adult and paediatric*)
- Gynaecology
- Hepatology
- Nephrology (*adult and paediatric*)
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery (*adult and paediatric*)
- Oncology and Malignant Haematology
- Ophthalmology (*adult and paediatric*)
- Orthopaedic
- Paediatric Surgery
- Persistent pain management (*adult and paediatric*)
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (*adult and paediatric*)
- Respiratory and Sleep Medicine
- Urology
- Vascular

CPC implementation

CPC relies on strong partnerships between the Primary Health Network and the HHS. CPC have been fully implemented and are BAU at a number of HHS's with all other HHS's rolling out CPC in a supported implementation during 2019. CPC will be embedded into the Smart Referral platform.

Department of Health Awards for Excellence winners 2018

Equitable health outcomes and broad engagement with partners

Making triage everyone's business—Implementing cross-sector behavioural change to ensure appropriate patient referral to Queensland Specialist Outpatient Services

For further information

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Specialist Outpatient Strategy: <https://clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority/areas/service-improvement/specialist-outpatient-strategy>

