

NEUROSURGERY

National Access Criteria for First Assessment (ACA)

Service Category: Neurosurgery	Patient Type: Outpatient [First Assessment]
Category Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urgent - seen at next available clinic or within 1 week 2. Semi urgent - seen within 1-4 weeks 3. Routine - seen within 3 months <p>Immediate and Urgent cases must be discussed with the Specialist or Registrar in order to get appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter sent with the patient, or faxed or emailed. The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.</p>	

Category	Criteria	Examples	Referral action
1. URGENT Immediate to 1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of death or irreversible deficit if not seen urgently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benign or malignant tumours associated with midline shift, hydrocephalus or severe deficits. • Spinal cord compression with severe or rapidly progressive deficit. • Blocked or infected VP shunt. • Subarachnoid haemorrhage. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PHONE CALL To Consultant or Registrar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Back-up fax also preferable)</p>
2. SEMI-URGENT 1 – 4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of death or irreversible deficit if not seen within 1 – 4 weeks • Extreme pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degenerative spinal disorders with significant deficit. • Most malignant intracranial tumours (high grade glioma, metastasis). • Severe trigeminal neuralgia. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PHONE CALL To Consultant or Registrar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FAX or LETTER</p>
3. ROUTINE Within 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable neurological conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most benign intracranial tumours with minimal or stable deficits. • Degenerative spinal disorders with minimal or no deficit. • Epilepsy/Movement Disorders/Chronic Pain. • Most peripheral nerve disorders. 	<p style="text-align: center;">LETTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Fax or phone call optional)</p>