

Austin Health High Risk Foot Clinic (HRFC) holds weekly sessions to assess and plan the treatment of patients with acute or chronic foot conditions.

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for Specialist Clinics

Urgent: Referrals should be categorised as urgent if the patient has a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life, if not managed promptly. These patients should be seen **within 30 days** of referral receipt. For emergency cases please send the patient to the Emergency department.

Routine: Referrals should be categorised as routine if the patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have significant consequences for the person's health and quality of life if specialist assessment is delayed beyond one month.

Exclusions: Appointments for the HRF Clinic in Endocrinology must be made in conjunction with an appointment to the HRFC Podiatry.

Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome	Expected Specialist Intervention Outcome	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
<p>The HRFC will accept referrals for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute or chronic foot infection at or below the ankle (with or without Diabetes Mellitus) Patients with current foot ulcer who are at high risk of presenting to Emergency Department Suspected or diagnosed Charcot's Arthropathy 	<p>When to Refer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor not familiar with condition Assistance required with management <p>Previous treatment already tried:</p>	<p>To be included in referral Clinical history and examination</p> <p>Updated medication list</p> <p>Diagnostics Wound swab, FBC, CRP, Fasting lipid profile, HbA1C, Vit D, renal function and others as indicated.</p> <p>Imaging X ray, MRI, Bone scan, Doppler's if done.</p> <p>Names of other health care professional involved in the case</p> <p>Instruct patient to bring films & diagnostic results to the Specialist Clinic appointment.</p>	<p>Urgent: N/A</p> <p>Routine: Patient will be treated in turn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the diagnosis Establishing treatment and discharge plan back to referrer Intervention that can only be monitored by a specialist Active chronic condition Securing patient/family confidence of understanding and self care Safe guarding concern 	<p>Dependent on condition and disease progression</p>