



Neurosciences Unit Adult General Diagnostic Program: Referral Criteria

Referral criteria

Known or strongly suspected significant neuro-cognitive impairment, whereby assessment will meaningfully impact the adult's clinical management. Neuro-cognitive impairment may include significant communication and/or behavioural change and may be due to conditions such as neurological disorders (e.g. stroke, neurodegenerative disease, multiple sclerosis), medical conditions, significant drug/alcohol use where permanent cognitive deficits are suspected, chronic mental illness, traumatic brain injury etc.

Referral sources

- Referrals are invited from medical specialists and WA Health Community Mental Health Teams in consultation with the treating psychiatrist (psychiatrist to be named on referral form).
- We accept referrals from general practitioners for:
 - Psychiatric / neurological / other medical conditions when relevant medical specialist reviews have occurred or are in progress
 - Dementia queries when medical work up is complete or in progress (e.g. via Memory Clinic, Geriatrician, Neurologist)
 - Other referrals (e.g. decision-making capacity) may be accepted; however, the general practitioner is asked to speak with a triage officer prior to referring.
- We are unable to accept referrals directly from non-medical sources (e.g., allied health). Allied health and other service providers are encouraged to liaise with the client's medical specialist regarding referral to the Neurosciences Unit and to provide supporting information.

Exclusion criteria We do not accept referrals for the following:

- Assessments for legal purposes, work or driving clearances, or insurance claims. These should be directed to the private sector. We can provide a list of some Perth practitioners upon request.
- Diagnosis of intellectual disability for the purpose of access to services. Referrals of this nature may be directed to the Department of Communities Disability Eligibility Team, private sector, or the Robin Winkler Clinic.
- Diagnosis of other developmental disorders (e.g. autism, specific language or learning disorders or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder). These referrals could be directed to the private sector or to the Robin Winkler Clinic at the University of Western Australia where subsidised assessments are performed by clinical neuropsychology trainees under supervision.
- Assessment for Centrelink eligibility or parenting capacity.
- Assessment for existing NDIS recipients for the purpose of seeking additional NDIS funds. Capacity Building funds within NDIS packages may be used to fund private assessments to clarify cognitive difficulties and strategies to support these.

Referral documentation

- Referral letters are accepted, however, referrers are encouraged to use the Neurosciences Unit Referral form (found on our website http://www.nmahsmh.health.wa.gov.au/services/statewide_nsu.cfm).
- Referrals must include relevant background information including specialist's letters of assessment and brain imaging reports where available.
- Incomplete referrals will be responded to with a request for additional information prior to presentation at clinical intake meetings.