



Royal Perth Hospital Orthopaedic Service

Condition specific referral criteria

Charcot Neuroarthropathy (Neuropathic Arthropathy / Charcot Foot)

Indications for urgent referral

- Suspected or confirmed Acute Charcot Neuroarthropathy (e.g. red, hot and/or swollen) – referral to the Multi-disciplinary Foot Ulcer Clinic or tertiary hospital Podiatry Clinic.
- Increase swelling / redness or signs of infection – immediate referral to the Emergency Department.
- Acute or Chronic (stable) Charcot Neuroarthropathy with associated foot ulceration – referral to Multi-disciplinary Foot Ulcer Clinic or tertiary hospital Podiatry Clinic.

Criteria for specialist referral via CRS

- One of the following:
 - Significant foot deformity due to Chronic (stable) Charcot Neuroarthropathy; or
 - Foot pain not responding to conservative management (orthoses/orthopaedic footwear) on background of Chronic (stable) Charcot Neuroarthropathy; or
 - Recurrent foot ulceration or significant pressure areas due to foot deformity secondary to Charcot Neuroarthropathy.
- Unsuccessful trial of “Required GP management” (see below).

Information required for referral

All referrals must include comprehensive medical history, relevant test results and a detailed summary of treatment to date.

Diabetic control with a targeted HbA1C of < 7.5% (or 58 mmol/mol) and documentation of weight loss management for patients with a BMI > 40.

Also required:

- Detailed history of the pain, deformity and swelling (location, severity, type, aggravating and relieving factors).
- Associated medical conditions.
- Any other associated injuries.
- Any previous treatments.

Investigations required for referral

- Full weight bearing x-rays of foot +/- ankle.

Required GP Management prior to referral

For suspected or confirmed acute Charcot Neuroarthropathy: Urgent referral to Tertiary Hospital Podiatry Clinic is recommended and GP to advise non-weight bearing.

For chronic/stable Charcot Neuroarthropathy: Accommodative orthotics, orthopaedic/custom footwear with rocker sole or CROW Boot.