

Paediatric Behavioural and Developmental Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health provides Specialist Clinic services for children up to 17 years of age who have been identified with delays in development; have symptoms that indicate possible Autism Spectrum Disorder, and/or challenging behaviour that require assessment, evaluation and management.

Referrals from Emergency Department or the Children's Ward for a behavioural and developmental assessment will not be accepted. All referrals must be made by a General Practitioner to ensure pre-assessments are included in the referral.

Referral will be triaged by a Paediatrician and/or a Paediatric Nurse according to specific clinical requirements.

Referrals may be triaged to alternative Paediatric Specialist Clinics at Western Health.

Specialist Clinics are provided in the Joan Kirner Women's & Children's Sunshine Hospital.

Conditions not seen by Paediatric Behavioural and Developmental Clinic at Western Health:

- Mental Health Services
- Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics and Neuropsychology are not provided as part of the Paediatric and Neonatal Specialist Clinics Service at Western Health with the exception in some instances for multidisciplinary follow-up care for premature neonates.

Note: Some of these services may be provided by the Children's Allied Health Service.

Phone 8345 1727 or visit the Western Health [Children's Referrals](#) webpage for more information.

Acute conditions requiring immediate assessment – please refer the patient to the Sunshine Hospital Emergency Department.

Access & Referral Priority Paediatric Developmental Medicine:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category.

The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

URGENT

Appointment timeframe 30 days

ROUTINE

Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.

Behavioural and Development Delay

Developmental Delay and Learning Difficulties

- Ongoing concerns for development after other considerations have been excluded e.g. hearing or vision impairment.

Note:

Simple isolated delay in language is not an indication for paediatrician referral.

Behavioural Problems

Refer if suspicions of:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Intellectual Disability
- Underlying medical cause for behaviour
- Symptoms of an externalising behaviour disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder or Global Developmental Delay

Prior to referring to paediatrician please arrange assessment with:

- Audiologist
- Speech pathologist
- Or, other relevant allied health clinicians
- Early Childhood Intervention

Note:

A paediatrician evaluation and some separate allied health assessments (for preschool children) can be performed at JKWC at Sunshine Hospital. However, a diagnosis may not be able to be made without additional speech pathology and psychology assessments which for most children will need to be performed externally.

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health clinicians to triage patient referrals to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to Specialist Clinics, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you will be asked to return the referral with the required information. If this information is not received, the referral may be rejected.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations
<p>Developmental Delay Including Autism Spectrum Disorder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer all children with any concerns in the domain of communication, speech, language, comprehension, and swallowing to a speech pathologist. Refer children with concerns of gait, balance, and coordination to a paediatric physiotherapist. Refer children with concerns with functional movement, activities of daily living, play, and hand function to a paediatric occupational therapist. <p>Note: Refer children with delay in ≥ 2 domains to Early Childhood Early Intervention Services (ECEIS). Referral can be made by completing the Early Childhood Early Intervention Referral Form.</p>	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross motor & fine motor Language Social and emotional History and exam findings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onset Symptoms Growth parameters Details of family history if similar patterns or other developmental delay Details of required referrals already made <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Parent's Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) and/or Brigance test report completed by a MCH nurse is highly desirable if available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paediatric audiology report or details of referral made is required Optometry report Please forward any copies of assessments and reports by teachers and school therapists Copy of PEDS or Brigance test if available
<p>ADHD</p>	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross motor & fine motor Language Social and emotional History and exam findings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onset Symptoms Details of family history if similar patterns or other developmental delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paediatric audiology report Consider optometrist assessment to ensure adequate vision. Behavioural optometry is not recommended. School reports

Western Health Specialist Clinics Referral Guidelines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details of referrals already made• Chronic Disease Management Plan referral details and/or Mental Health Care Plan referral details. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychologist assessment report	
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