

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Adult Specialist Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health provides the following Adult Specialist Clinics for patients who require assessment and management of plastic surgical conditions. Patients will be triaged by Consultant plastic surgeons into management pathways according to specific clinical requirements.

Conditions not seen by Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Specialists at Western Health:

Referrals regarding the following conditions are not accepted:

- Cosmetic surgery for non-medical reasons
- Revision surgery following previous or initial cosmetic surgery

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Alarm Symptoms:

Acute injury:

- Burn injuries which are extensive, involve special areas (face, hands, perineum), or meet the criteria for referral should be discussed with the Victorian Adult Burns Service (The Alfred)
- Extensive or multi-trauma injuries are best managed at a tertiary trauma centre (Royal Melbourne Hospital or The Alfred)

Access & Referral Priority: Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malignancies of skin and soft tissues:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basal cell carcinoma (BCC)○ Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)○ Melanoma• Atypical cancers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC)○ Atypical fibroxanthoma (AFX)○ Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other skin and soft tissues:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Benign: naevi, solar lentigo, seborrheic keratoses, sebaceous cyst, lipoma○ Foreign body○ Vascular anomalies○ Nerve tumours: schwannoma○ Hidradenitis suppurativa○ Pathological scars: keloid, hypertrophic

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

<p style="text-align: center;">URGENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appointment timeframe 30 days.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROUTINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soft tissue injuries: consider referral to Emergency Department (ED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open wounds and skin lacerations ○ Infected wounds and skin lacerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head and neck <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facial nerve injury ○ Upper eyelid excess skin with visual field obstruction ● Other traumatic, congenital or malignant conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Burn injuries: consider referral to ED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand and upper limb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carpal tunnel syndrome ○ Dupuytren's disease ○ Ganglion ○ Trigger finger ○ Ulnar nerve neuropathy ○ Rheumatoid hand deformity ○ De Quervain's tenosynovitis ● Osteoarthritis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand injuries: consider referral to ED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fractures: thumb, phalanges, metacarpals, carpal bones ○ Both open and closed fractures ○ Upper limb soft tissue injuries, lacerations and wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congenital: tuberous breast deformity, Poland syndrome ○ Breast cancer (post-mastectomy reconstruction) ○ Gynaecomastia ○ Macromastia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Craniofacial injuries: consider referral to ED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fractures: nose, maxilla, orbit, frontal bone, mandible ○ Facial soft tissue injuries, lacerations and wounds 	

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to specialist clinics, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations:
Soft tissue injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment
Burn injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed Provisional diagnosis 	
Hand injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment
Craniofacial injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment
Malignancies of skin and soft tissues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of histopathology report (if applicable)
Other skin and soft tissue conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images)

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Clinical Investigations:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment
Head and neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment • Copy of histopathology report (if applicable)
Hand and upper limb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment • Copy of Nerve Conduction Studies report (carpal tunnel syndrome, cubital tunnel syndrome)
Breast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History: mechanism, duration, symptoms ○ Examination findings ○ Investigations performed • Provisional diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of imaging reports (X-ray, ultrasound, CT) and details of radiology service provider (to support triaging clinician to review online images) • Provide patient with copies (if available) of images to bring to appointment