

THE ALFRED REFERRAL GUIDELINES: PLASTIC SURGERY

Referral priority guide

Lesions:

Melanoma, confirmed or suspected

Other skin cancers, confirmed or suspected

Other malignancies (head/neck/oral/salivary/connective tissue)

Benign skin lesions

Subcutaneous and deep tissue tumours

General conditions:

Scar revision and management

Burns and burn scar management

Vascular malformations

Pressure sores

Other chronic sores and ulcers

Foreign body removal

Lymphoedema

Lipodystrophy

Face:

Adult cleft lip and palate

Other faciomaxillary abnormalities

Nose:

Nasal fracture (immediate/traumatic)

Nasal reconstruction

Rhinophyma

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<p>Immediate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand fractures (open or closed) • Acute fingertip injuries • Open wounds • Tendon injuries • Nasal fractures • Acute burns 	<p>Phone the Plastic Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p> <p>For acute nasal fractures, phone the Fξιomaxillary Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p> <p>For acute burns, phone the Burns Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency & Trauma Centre.</p>
<p>Urgent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed or suspected melanoma • Skin cancers other than melanoma with underlying medical conditions leading to immunosuppression eg HIV, transplant patients • Other malignancies (head/neck/oral/salivary/connective tissue) 	<p>Urgent cases must be discussed with the Plastic Surgery Registrar on call to obtain appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter faxed to 9076 6938.</p> <p>For head/neck/oral/salivary gland malignancies, contact the ENT Surgery Registrar on call to obtain appropriate prioritisation and then fax a referral letter to 9076 6938.</p> <p>Likely to receive an appointment within 1-2 weeks.</p>
<p>Soon</p>	<p>Likely to receive an appointment within 2-6 weeks.</p>
<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Likely to receive and appointment within 6-12 weeks.</p>
<p>Non-urgent</p>	<p>Appointment may be delayed.</p>
<p>Not seen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under 16 years of age are not seen at the Alfred. • Adult cleft lip and surgery (refer to the Royal Children's Hospital) • Cosmetic liposuction • Abdominoplasty • Aesthetic surgery other than those meeting the specific indications outlined in the Department of Health "Guidelines for Aesthetic Surgery on the Public Hospital Waiting List" • Please note: Patients undergoing aesthetic (cosmetic) surgery at The Alfred must have been non-smokers for a minimum of 6 weeks prior to consideration of surgery • Please note: Patients undergoing aesthetic (cosmetic) surgery at The Alfred should generally have a BMI less than 30

Please note: The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department. If you are concerned about the delay of the outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient's condition, please contact the Plastic Surgery Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

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Lesions

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Melanoma – Confirmed Or Suspected	Do not perform punch biopsy if melanoma is suspected. Include pathology report and other investigations if available. Refer for biopsy /confirmation of diagnosis and management.	Refer urgently to Melanoma Unit – PRIORITY 1 See Dermatology Referral and Management Guidelines For melanoma referrals, phone/fax Merran Tyler 9530 5940.
Other Skin Cancers (not melanoma), Confirmed Or Suspected	Include details of site, size, +/- excision required. Refer for definitive diagnosis	If underlying medical condition leading to immunosuppression eg HIV, transplant patients – PRIORITY 1 If uncomplicated – PRIORITY 2 NB Initial appointment is for assessment only, and not for procedure
Other Malignancies (Head/Neck/Oral/Salivary glands Connective tissue)	CT scan and other imaging as appropriate. The Alfred Radiology request form	For malignancies of head/neck/oral cavity/salivary glands, refer urgently to ENT clinic– PRIORITY 1 See ENT Referral and Management Guidelines For other connective tissue malignancies, refer urgently – PRIORITY 1- contact Plastic Surgery Registrar through The Alfred Switchboard on 9076 2000
Benign skin lesions		PRIORITY 3
Subcutaneous and deep tissue tumours	USS of lesion +/- CT scan if malignancy suspected The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 1 if malignancy suspected, otherwise PRIORITY 3

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General conditions

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Scar revision & management	Consider iron replacement while awaiting investigations	PRIORITY 3-4 depending on site, severity and presence of functional impairment For burns scar revision, refer to Burns Unit See Burns Referral and Management Guidelines
Burns & burn scar management		For burns scar revision, refer to Burns Unit See Burns Referral and Management Guidelines
Vascular malformations	USS of lesion The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity
Pressure sores	Contact Plastic Surgery Clinic Coordinator via switchboard to discuss assessment of non-ambulant patients	PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity
Other chronic sores & ulcers		PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity
Foreign body removal	XR or USS as appropriate The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 2
Lymphoedema		PRIORITY 3-4 depending on severity
Lipodystrophy		Refer to Infectious Diseases Clinic Return to contents page

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Face

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Adult cleft lip and palate		Cleft lip and palate surgery in adults is not performed at The Alfred – refer to the Royal Children’s Hospital
Other faxiomaxillary abnormalities		Refer to Faxiomaxillary Clinic Return to contents page

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Nose

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Nasal fracture (immediate/traumatic)		Refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre
Nasal reconstruction		Refer to Faxiomaxillary Clinic. If immediately post fracture, refer urgently PRIORITY 1); if longstanding PRIORITY 3-4
Rhinophyma		PRIORITY 3-4 Return to contents page

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Eyelids

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Ptosis (Levator Weakness)		PRIORITY 3
Ectropion		PRIORITY 3
Eyelid reduction in "abnormal" cases		If causing obstruction of vision, PRIORITY 3. Otherwise not seen.

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Ears

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Ear Reconstruction (Congenital & Traumatic Abnormalities)		If secondary to acute trauma, refer IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre. Otherwise PRIORITY 3-4 Return to contents page

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Breast

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Breast reconstruction (usually after mastectomy)		PRIORITY 3
Reduction mammoplasty		Refer when there are significant symptoms or recurrent intertrigo - PRIORITY 4
Augmentation mammoplasty		Refer if post mastectomy reconstruction, augmentation for contralateral breast - Poland syndrome, or post burn reconstruction – PRIORITY 3-4
Gynecomastia		PRIORITY 4
Congenital abnormalities of the breast		PRIORITY 4
Mastopexy		Refer if following significant weigh loss eg after gastric banding, or for correction of significant breast asymmetry following breast reconstruction -PRIORITY 4
Removal of breast prosthesis		Refer if rupture of silicone prosthesis - PRIORITY 3-4.

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Hand

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Open hand fractures		Refer immediately to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment
Closed hand fractures		Refer immediately to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment
Acute fingertip injuries		Refer immediately to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre for assessment
Congenital hand deformities (adult)	XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 3
Secondary hand surgery after injury	XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 3
Stenosing tenosynovitis (eg de Quervain's)	Include details of functional impairment in referral.	PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity
Carpal tunnel & other nerve compression syndromes	Please ensure patient has had nerve conduction studies. Please send results with referral if available, or arrange nerve conduction studies and note date of appointment in referral. Nerve conduction studies can be performed at The Alfred: phone 9076 2058; fax 9076 6075.	PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity Initial appointment may include assessment by hand therapist.
Nerve palsies	Please ensure patient has had nerve conduction studies. Please send results with referral if available, or arrange nerve conduction studies and note date of appointment in referral. Nerve conduction studies can be performed at The Alfred: phone 9076 2058; fax 9076 6075.	PRIORITY 2-3 depending on severity
Rheumatoid hand deformities	XR. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	Refer to Rheumatology Clinic for assessment - PRIORITY 3 depending on functional difficulties
Dupytren's contracture	Include details of functional impairment in referral.	PRIORITY 3
Soft tissue tumours of the hand (ganglia)	USS of lesion. Include details of functional impairment in referral. The Alfred Radiology request form	PRIORITY 3 depending on functional difficulties

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Genital

Diagnosis	Evaluation	Referral Guidelines
Vaginal/Vulval/Penile Reconstruction Post Malignancy		If functional abnormalities, refer to Urology Clinic If cosmetic, refer to Plastic Surgery Clinic - PRIORITY 3 Return to contents page