

Provincial Adult Neurosurgery Referral Pathway

About this Pathway

Referral pathways help referring providers know where to send referrals and what information to include. These guidelines were created, updated, and co-designed with primary care, specialty care and patients.



We value all feedback to improve referral pathway. Please share your comments via [Online Survey](#) or scan the QR code.

Review Clinical Pathway

(for guidance on referral process, if available)

A [clinical pathway](#) may be available to guide care options for your patient's condition:

Provincial

- [Carpal Tunnel Clinical Pathway](#)

If you have any questions while using a clinical pathway or if a clinical pathway is not available, please request non-urgent advice.

Request Urgent Advice

(when patient may need same day intervention and/or diagnostics without hospitalization; not life threatening)

For example: evolving neurological deficit or altered level of consciousness

Call **RAAPID**:

- **RAAPID North: 1-800-282-9911**
- **RAAPID South: 1-800-661-1700**

Request Non-Urgent Advice

(when uncertain whether to submit a referral)

Access non-urgent specialist advice by electronic advice (Response within 5 calendar days): Use Alberta Netcare eReferral and submit [eConsult request](#).

For more information, go to: albertanetcare.ca/eReferral.htm.

Request Emergency Consultation

(when patient needs to be seen immediately)

For example: evolving neurological deficit or altered level of consciousness

Call **RAAPID** or send to **Emergency Department via 911** as appropriate. If stroke symptoms are evolving, call local stroke service via RAAPID.

Request Non-Urgent Referral

(when patient requires non-urgent referral)

Submit a referral as per the process below:

- Complete a referral letter stating the reason for referral. Tip: review the [QuRE Referral/Consult Checklist](#) for high-quality referral guidelines. A form is also available (coming soon).
- Attach all mandatory information to the referral.
- **Coming Soon:** Fax the completed referral to the FAST (Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment) central access and intake program as listed in the Program Contacts section.
- If you have questions about a previously submitted but unassigned referral, call the FAST office at 1-833-553-3278. If you have questions about an assigned referral, please contact the specialist office directly.

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Program Contacts

	North Zone	Edmonton Zone	Central Zone	Calgary Zone	South Zone
Urgent Advice or Emergency Consultation	RAAPID North Tel 1-800-282-9911	RAAPID North Tel 1-800-282-9911	RAAPID North Tel 1-800-282-9911 RAAPID South Tel 1-800-661-1700	RAAPID South Tel 1-800-661-1700	RAAPID South Tel 1-800-661-1700
Non-Urgent Advice	Coming Soon	Coming Soon	Coming Soon	Coming Soon	Coming Soon
Zone FAST* Team	North Zone FAST Team Coming Soon Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 1 Fax 1-833-627-7025	Edmonton Zone FAST Team Coming Soon Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 2 Fax: 780-644-1378	Central Zone FAST Team Coming Soon Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 3 Fax 1-833-627-7022	Calgary Zone FAST Team Coming Soon Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 4 Fax 1-833-627-7023	South Zone FAST Team Coming Soon Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 5 Fax 1-833-627-7024

*FAST (Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment) central access and intake program.

NEUROSURGERY

Reason for Referral	Process	Mandatory Info (Essential investigations & timeframes)	Extra Info (If available)
CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Clinical Pathway: Carpal Tunnel All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include within the referral letter (Refer to clinical pathway for additional support): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of symptom onset and duration Specify if atrophy or weakness present, as this impacts triage. Functional status limitations Treatments initiated and responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrodiagnostic studies should be ordered concurrently if atrophy/weakness present (i.e. severe carpal tunnel syndrome)
MEDIAN NERVE ENTRAPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other than carpal tunnel syndrome Includes: pronator Syndrome, lacertus syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<p>< 12 months of referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrodiagnostic study results required as results impact triage decisions. Please specify if wasting and weakness are present. 	
RADIAL NERVE ENTRAPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes: radial tunnel, PIN compression, wartenberg's syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<p>< 12 months of referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrodiagnostic study results required as results impact triage decisions. Please specify if wasting and weakness are present. 	
ULNAR NERVE ENTRAPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes: Cubital Tunnel, Guyon's Syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<p>< 12 months of referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrodiagnostic study results required as results impact triage decisions. Please specify if wasting and weakness are present. If loss of motion at the elbow, please provide x-ray of the affected elbow completed within 12 months 	
INTRACRANIAL NEOPLASM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes: Benign and Malignant Metastatic Tumors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any available imaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further imaging may be ordered by specialist if necessary

NEUROSURGERY

Reason for Referral	Process	Mandatory Info (Essential investigations & timeframes)	Extra Info (If available)
CRANIAL BONE NEOPLASM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any available imaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further imaging may be ordered by specialist if necessary
HYDROCEPHALUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any available imaging 	
CEREBROVASCULAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes: Aneurysms, AVM, Carotid Stenosis, Cavemoma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any available imaging 	
CONSULT FOR NEUROSURGERY (OTHER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. Coming soon. Prior to launch, refer as per local zonal processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any available imaging 	
SPINE REASONS FOR REFERRAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North zone: Refer to the Provincial Orthopedics & Spine Referral Pathway for reasons for referral and send referral to Zone FAST Team South, Calgary, Central and Edmonton Zones: At this time referring providers are advised to send referrals directly to the spine clinic/surgeon of their choice as they did prior to FAST 		