

Provincial Adult Vascular Surgery 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.



Request Urgent Advice

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

Call **RAAPID** urgent tele-advice:
RAAPID North: 1-800-282-9911.
RAAPID South: 1-800-661-1700.

Request Emergency Consultation

(when patient needs to be seen immediately)

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

Includes:

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm - Symptomatic
- Peripheral Aneurysm - Symptomatic
- Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm - Descending Thoracic Symptomatic or $\geq 6.5\text{cm}$
- Visceral/Renal Aneurysm - Symptomatic
- Acute Limb Ischemia
- Acute Mesenteric Ischemia

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

- [Provincial Lower Limb Ischemia Primary Care Pathway](#)
- [Diabetes Foot Care Clinical Pathway Toolkit](#)

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

Request Non-Urgent Advice

(when uncertain whether to submit a referral)

Access [non-urgent specialist advice](#) online or by telephone:

North and Edmonton Zones: ConnectMD

Advice available Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays). Request advice:

Online at pcnconnectmd.com/non-urgent-advice-request.

By phone at 1-844-633-2263.

For more information, visit pcnconnectmd.com.

Calgary Zone: Specialist Link

Tele-advice available Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays).

Request call-back at 1-844-962-5465.

For more information, visit specialistlink.ca.

Request Non-Urgent Referral

(when patient requires non-urgent referral)

Submit a [referral](#) as per the process below:

- Complete a referral letter including the reason for referral. Tip: review the [QuRE Referral/Consult Checklist](#) for high-quality referral guidelines. A [referral form](#) is also available.
- Attach all mandatory information to the referral.
- 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.

Table Of Contents

Aneurysm	Carotid	Peripheral Artery Disease	Other
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm- Symptomatic	Symptomatic Carotid Artery Disease	Acute Limb Ischemia	Venous Disease Uncomplicated (Varicose Veins Without Complications)
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female ≥6.0cm and Male ≥6.5cm	Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis >50%	Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia	Venous Disease Complicated (Ulceration or Bleeding)
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female 5.0-5.9cm and Male 5.5-6.4cm	Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis <50%	Asymptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease or Intermittent Claudication	Acute Mesenteric Ischemia
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female 4.0-4.9cm size And Male 4.0-5.4cm size			Mesenteric Occlusive Disease
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Mild - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter <4.0cm			Renal Vascular Occlusive Disease
Peripheral Aneurysm – Symptomatic			Vascular Thoracic Outlet Syndrome
Peripheral Aneurism - Asymptomatic			Neurogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm (TAA) - Descending Thoracic, symptomatic or AP or Transverse Diameter ≥6.5cm			Other Aortic Pathology
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm (TAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter ≤6.4cm			Other Referral for Vascular Surgery
Visceral/Renal Aneurysm - Symptomatic			
Visceral / Renal Aneurysm - Asymptomatic			

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	ConnectMD Online request Tel 1-844-633-2263 pcnconnectmd.com	ConnectMD Online request Tel 1-844-633-2263 pcnconnectmd.com	Coming Soon	Specialist Link Tel 1-844-962-5465 specialistlink.ca	Coming Soon
Zone FAST* Team	North Zone FAST Team Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 1 Fax 1-833-627-7025	Edmonton Zone FAST Team Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 2 Fax 780-409-0607	Central Zone For <u>Edmonton Zone</u> Vascular Surgery send referral to, Central Zone FAST Team Tel 1-833-553-3278 ext. 3 Fax 1-833-627-7022 For <u>Calgary Zone</u> Vascular Surgery, send referral to <u>Vascular Outpatient Clinic</u> .	Calgary Zone Send to <u>Vascular Outpatient Clinic</u> .	South Zone Send to <u>Vascular Outpatient Clinic</u> .

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

ANEURYSM

Reason for Referral	Access Target			Process	Mandatory Information
Imaging is not routinely required and need not delay referral- please see specific referral requirements prior to ordering testing. CT Angio not routinely required unless indicated in mandatory information					
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Symptomatic Symptomatic: Abdominal or back pain, tender to palpation, back or flank pain.				EMERGENCY CONSULTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call surgeon on call through RAAPID.	
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female ≥6.0cm Male ≥6.5cm	Sex¹	Size	Target	To arrange an urgent referral : <ul style="list-style-type: none">North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD.Calgary: Call Specialist Link.Central/South: Call RAAPID (to arrange an urgent referral).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed with measurement (if available)
	Female	≥6.0cm			
	Male	≥ 6.5cm			
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female 5.0-5.9cm Male 5.5-6.4cm	Sex	Size	Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none">South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DI imaging with measurement (ultrasound or CT scan, both are not required)Serum Creatinine within 3 months
	Female	5.0-5.9cm	6 weeks		
	Male	5.5-6.4cm	6 weeks		
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter Female 4.0-4.9cm Male 4.0-5.4cm	Sex	Size	Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none">South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DI imaging with measurement (ultrasound or CT scan, both are not required)Serum Creatinine within 3 months
	Female	4.0-4.9cm	24 weeks		
	Male	4.0-5.4cm	24 weeks		
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Mild - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter <4.0cm				NON-URGENT ADVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none">North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD.Calgary: Call Specialist Link.Central/South: Call Non-Urgent via RAAPID.	
Peripheral Aneurysm – Symptomatic Symptomatic: tender to palpation, evidence of distal clot embolization (signs of ischemia to distal tissue beds).				EMERGENCY CONSULTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call surgeon on call through RAAPID.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ultrasound or CT scan, both are not required

¹ Sex refers to Sex assigned at birth.

ANEURYSM			
Reason for Referral	Access Target	Process	Mandatory Information
Imaging is not routinely required and need not delay referral- please see specific referral requirements prior to ordering testing. CT Angio not routinely required unless indicated in mandatory information			
Peripheral Aneurysm - Asymptomatic	12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ultrasound or CT scan, both are not required
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm (TAA) - Descending Thoracic, symptomatic or AP or Transverse Diameter ≥6.5cm Symptomatic: Chest and Back Pain		EMERGENCY CONSULTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call surgeon on call through RAAPID. <i>If ascending aorta call Cardiac Surgery on Call through RAAPID</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm (TAA) - Asymptomatic AP or Transverse Diameter ≤6.4cm	12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team. <i>If ascending aorta call Cardiac Surgery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DI imaging with measurement (ultrasound or CT scan, both are not required)Serum Creatinine within 3 months
Visceral/Renal Aneurysm - Symptomatic Symptomatic: Abdominal pain		EMERGENCY CONSULTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call surgeon on call through RAAPID.	
Visceral / Renal Aneurysm - Asymptomatic	Variable 2-12 weeks depending on size	NON-URGENT ADVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none">North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD.Calgary: Call Specialist Link. Central/South: Call Non-Urgent via RAAPID. OR send a referral to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed (ultrasound or CT scan, but both not required)Serum Creatinine within 3 months

CAROTID			
Reason for Referral	Access Target	Process	Mandatory Information
Imaging is not routinely required and need not delay referral- please see specific referral requirements prior to ordering testing. CT Angio not routinely required unless indicated in mandatory information			
Symptomatic Carotid Artery Disease		<p>To arrange an urgent referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD.• Calgary: Call Specialist Link.• Central/South: Call RAAPID (to arrange an urgent referral). <p><i>If patient has stroke or stroke-like symptoms call neurologist via RAAPID.</i></p>	
Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis >50%	12 weeks-26 weeks variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed• Serum Creatinine within 3 months
Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis <50%		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical management of cardiovascular risk.	

PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE			
Reason for Referral	Access Target	Process	Mandatory Information
Acute Limb Ischemia Symptomatic: Abrupt sensory/motor loss to limb.		EMERGENCY CONSULTATION Call surgeon on call through RAAPID .	
Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia Symptomatic: Rest pain or tissue loss.	< 4weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Clinical Pathway: Lower Limb Ischemia.For diabetic foot concerns, refer to Clinical Pathway: Diabetes Foot Care.South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic. Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completedLower Limb Vascular non-invasive studies (segmental bp measure and or arterial u/s) if availableUpper limb vascular non-invasive studies (segmental bp measure and or arterial u/s) if available
Asymptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease or Intermittent Claudication		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Clinical Pathway: Lower Limb IschemiaFor diabetic foot concerns refer to Clinical Pathway: Diabetes Foot CareRisk factor reductionSouth and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completedLower Limb Vascular non-invasive studies (segmental bp measure and or arterial u/s)Upper limb vascular non-invasive studies (segmental bp measure and or arterial u/s)

OTHER			
Reason for Referral	Access Target	Process	Mandatory Information
Imaging is not routinely required and need not delay referral- please see specific referral requirements prior to ordering testing. CT Angio not routinely required unless indicated in mandatory information			
Venous Disease Uncomplicated (Varicose Veins Without Complications)	52 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed
Venous Disease Complicated (Ulceration or Bleeding) Includes: Bleeding varix, venous ulcer, recurrent episodes of phlebitis.	6 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed
Acute Mesenteric Ischemia		EMERGENCY CONSULTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call surgeon on call through RAAPID	
Mesenteric Occlusive Disease		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any relevant diagnostic imaging already completed• Serum Creatinine within 3 months
Renal Vascular Occlusive Disease			
Vascular Thoracic Outlet Syndrome Evidence of axillary/subclavian DVT on imaging or evidence of subclavian artery compression or aneurysm.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CTA Chest• Chest X-ray confirming cervical rib or Diagnostic imaging suggesting thoracic outlet syndrome
Neurogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to Thoracic Surgery. See Alberta Referral Directory for zone processes	
Other Aortic Pathology		ASK FOR ADVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD• Calgary: Call Specialist Link• Central/South: Call Non-Urgent via RAAPID	

OTHER			
Reason for Referral	Access Target	Process	Mandatory Information
Other Referral for Vascular Surgery		<p>ASK FOR ADVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North/Edmonton: Call ConnectMD• Calgary: Call Specialist Link• Central/South: Call Non-Urgent via RAAPID <p>OR send a referral to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South and Calgary Zones: Refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Central Zone: For Edmonton zone vascular surgery, send Referral to Zone FAST Team. For Calgary zone vascular surgery, refer to Vascular Outpatient Clinic.• Edmonton and North Zones: Send referral to Zone FAST Team.	

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