

OUTPATIENT SERVICE DESCRIPTION & TRIAGE GUIDELINES

ORTHOPAEDIC UPPER LIMB

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)

Description of Service

The Upper Limb service is part of the SALHN Orthopaedic Department based at the Repatriation General Hospital.

The service provides assessment and management of Shoulder and Elbow problems, requiring Surgical/Conservative or Physiotherapy treatment.

Referrals that do not include the required information will be returned to the referring doctor.

Services provided

- [Frozen Shoulder](#)
- [Shoulder Osteoarthritis](#)
- [Shoulder Instability](#)
- [Rotator cuff disease / Impingement](#)
- Septic Arthritis – **Urgent – contact Orthopaedic Registrar and present to ED**

Services not provided

- Trauma and Fractures referral to Flinders Medical Centre
- Hand and Wrist

For urgent advice contact Orthopaedics Registrar via

Repatriation General Hospital (RGH) switchboard Ph: (08)8276 9666

Triage Criteria for Referral

*These are broad indicators. The triaging clinician's professional judgement based on information on referral may amend category at the time.

Category 1 Target 2- 4 weeks Current < 4 weeks	Category 2 Target < 3 months Current < 4 months	Category 3 Target < 12 months Current < 14 months
<p>**Septic Arthritis present to Emergency Department**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Dislocation aged < 30 years • Trauma cuff lesion aged < 65 years • AC Joint dislocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other instability • Ultrasound proven cuff lesion • SLAP/Bankart lesion • Shoulder Osteoarthritis • Calcific tendonitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impingement / cuff tendinopathy • Frozen Shoulder

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	July 2014	July 2016	Original