



Royal Perth Hospital Orthopaedic Service

Condition specific referral criteria

Claw Toe / Hammer Toe

Indications for urgent referral

- Signs of infection or ulceration – immediate-referral to the Multi-disciplinary Foot Ulcer Clinic.
- Signs of ischaemia, sepsis or ascending cellulitis – refer to the Emergency Department.

Criteria for specialist referral via CRS

- Lesser toe deformity +/- corns and callosities with at least one of the following symptoms:
 - Pain due to rubbing and corns.
 - Difficulty in wearing closed shoes.
- Unsuccessful trial of “Required GP Management” (see below).

Information required for referral

All referrals must include comprehensive medical history, relevant test results, and a detailed summary of treatment to date.

Diabetic control with a targeted HbA1C of < 7.5% (or 58 mmol/mol) and documentation of weight loss management for patients with a BMI > 40.

Also required:

- History of the pain, deformity and swelling (location, severity, type, aggravating and relieving factors).
- Functional limitations.
- Any previous treatments (e.g. Orthotics).
- Any previous surgery.
- Associated medical conditions.
- Problems with footwear.

Investigations required for referral

- Full weight bearing foot x-rays isolating toe/s.

Required GP Management prior to referral

- Referral to community podiatry.
- Extra depth footwear.
- Orthotics / spacer / toe props.
- Analgesia / Anti-inflammatory medicines (unless contra-indicated).