

PRIMARY CARE ACCESS TO ORTHOPAEDICS



Please review the following clinical pathways at specialistlink.ca:

- ✓ [Hip and knee surgical care pathway](#)
- ✓ [Shoulder assessment clinical pathway](#)
- ✓ [Provincial spine: Low back primary care pathway](#)

NON-URGENT ADVICE

Make an eReferral eConsult

Log into Alberta Netcare and submit your questions electronically:

albertanetcare.ca/ereferral.htm

Get a response within **five calendar days!**

Please note: Effective January 1, 2025, non-urgent orthopaedic surgery tele-advice is no longer available on Specialist Link. Providers are asked to call RAAPID for advice (see below)

NON-URGENT CONSULTATION

Patient does NOT need to be seen urgently



- ✓ Indicate a clear reason for referral and all required information as outlined under mandatory info in the [provincial orthopaedics and spine referral pathway](#) (please note: Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment no longer accepts spine surgery referrals)
- ✓ See QuRE referral/consultation checklist for high quality referral guidelines: ahs.ca/QuRE
- ✓ FAST is accepting referrals via fax (except for oncology and pediatric orthopaedics, as well as spine surgery) to **1.833.627.7023**. Spine surgery referrals should be sent directly to the spine clinic or surgeon of your choice
- ✓ Patients may be entitled to expedited surgery with WCB Alberta. Select "Contact with claim owner" on WCB report or call the WCB's physician help line at **1.855.498.4919**
- ✓ For questions about assigned referrals, contact the specialist's office. See albertareferraldirectory.ca for individual clinic contact information. For submitted unassigned referrals, call FAST at **1.833.553.3278**

URGENT ADVICE/CONSULTATION

Patient MAY need to be seen immediately



- ✓ Call on-call surgeon via [RAAPID](#) South at **403-944-4486 / 1.800.661.1700**
 - **Indications:** Acute fractures, including all fractures within 4 weeks of injury, acute tendon ruptures and torn ligaments, dislocation, metastatic bone tumors, including impeding pathologic fractures, acute pathologic fractures
 - **Note:** If the patient is already under the care of an orthopaedic surgeon for this injury, please contact them. For suspected primary or locally aggressive bone tumors, refer to orthopaedic oncology

EMERGENCY CONSULTATION

Patient NEEDS to be seen immediately



- ✓ Call [RAAPID](#) South at **403.944.4486 / 1.800.661.1700** or send patient to emergency for:
 - Open fractures and / or fractures potentially requiring acute operative treatment, suspected septic joints and orthopedic infections, irreducible acute joint dislocations, compartment syndrome (acute), cauda equina or progressive neurologic deficit after injury