



Outlook

FSH referrals

From Smith-Birch, Nina <Janine.Smith-birch@health.wa.gov.au>

Date Wed 09/07/2025 16:02

To Ray Morrison <ray.morrison85@hotmail.com>

OFFICIAL

Hi Ray , following our phone conversation today I really hope your surgery goes well and I am assuming you have weighed up all the risks and potential complications. As discussed previously I am concerned that having your surgery in Sydney will obviously affect your rehab here in WA.

Please print this and take a copy with you to give to your surgeon/clinicians managing your surgery as I want you to be as prepared as possible for your post rehab journey. I spoke to the FSH senior orthotist and Tracy spoke to the senior amputee OT. They were concerned (as am I) re what amputee follow-up and rehab you are going to have post your surgery. You will need a specialised multidisciplinary amputee service for this, and you will need gait training support and comprehensive rehab. I am limited in my clinic to managing persistent pain and cannot provide amputee rehab that you will require.

They advised the following:

- Really important: Please ensure your surgeon doing the amputation makes a referral to the WA Health amputee clinic and refers you as a high priority (or at the very least your GP makes a referral urgent) specifying all the details of your surgery, post operation orders and requesting the recommended rehab required. I **cannot** say whether the referral will be accepted because it is not my clinic and I have no governance over the clinic, it is under the governance of the State Rehab Amputee consultants. Usually, the patients that come through the service have their surgery here in WA. There are also significant waitlists for the outpatient clinics.
- Really important: please tell the anaesthetist for your surgery, your current medication/ allergies list and what pain medications you take and that you have CRPS – I would advise a conversation with the anaesthetist about post operative pain management prior to your surgery
- Please can you ask the surgeon doing your surgery to give you, in writing:
 - Your operation notes including the type of amputation (e.g. above knee, below knee, osteo integration details, etc)
 - The clearest possible guidelines for post operative care, hygiene care
 - Information about the Dual Cone Adaptor – expected time frames and cost for revision and where /who/how it will be done, who covers the cost of this ?
 - Any likely ongoing costs to you to maintain your osteo integration
 - What to be aware of with your wound care and what to do if you think you have an infection.
- Please can you ask the clinic where you are having your surgery to advise you on home set up and what equipment you will need. I have been advised by the OT dept that it is the responsibility of the discharging hospital/clinic to provide you with all of the necessary equipment. In addition, the wheelchair you have on loan from FSH is not an amputee

specific wheelchair and may be unsuitable for you to use post your surgery. You may need some special adaptations – please ask the clinic about this before you leave Sydney.

- Please can you find out what NDIS options are available to you – physio , OT, orthotics etc. Please check if they cover the dual cone adaptor as above.
- As above I am unclear whether the FSH Amputee service will accept the referral and what timeframes are like re waitlists etc so please make sure the clinic doing your surgery has set you up well enough to come home safely and be fully equipped to manage once they discharge you.
- Strongly advise you not to smoke – it can significantly affect wound healing and puts you at increased risk of persistent pain post op.

Wishing you all the best Ray
Take care
Nina

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