Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) are clinical decision support tools that will help ensure patients referred for public specialist outpatient services in Queensland are assessed in order of clinical urgency.

CPC will be used by both referring practitioners when referring into the Queensland public hospital system and Queensland public specialist outpatient services when determining how quickly the patient should be seen (urgency category).

CPC have been developed to improve patients’ specialist outpatient experience. They aim to ensure:

- Equitable assessment of patients regardless of where they live
- Specialist outpatient appointments that are delivered in order of clinical urgency
- Patients are ready for care at their first specialist outpatient appointment
- Improved referral and communication processes between referrers and specialist outpatient services.

Importantly, CPC will assist, rather than replace, clinical judgment and decision-making

Developed by clinicians

A Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) was established for each specialty and a medical specialist appointed as the Clinical Lead.

CPC are developed by a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians to ensure that the criteria are clinically relevant.

CPC will ensure referrers to Queensland public specialist outpatient services have access to evidence-based condition-specific referral requirements

Tested for quality assurance

CPC are tested in clinical environments for quality assurance and impact assessment. The results will inform ongoing development and implementation of CPC in 2017 and 2018.

Initial Release

CPC were released on 1 July 2016 and include 14 adult and 6 paediatric specialties:

- Diabetes and Endocrinology (adult and paediatric)
- ENT (adult and paediatric)
- Gastroenterology
- General Paediatrics
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Hepatology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery (adult and paediatric)
- Oncology and Malignant Haematology
- Ophthalmology (adult and paediatric)
- Orthopaedic
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (adult and paediatric)
- Urology
- Vascular

Implemented to improve patient experience

CPC implementation relies on strong partnerships between primary and secondary care and across health sectors.

CPC are currently being rolled out in Brisbane, Mackay and on the Sunshine Coast, with statewide implementation expected to be complete by the end of 2018.

For more information and regular updates regarding CPC progress, including development and implementation status:

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Website: https://cpc.health.qld.gov.au