

UVM Health ORTHOPEDICS SPINE Referrals/Consult

All referrals must include the most recent visit note and imaging reports. Be sure imaging done outside UVMH is sent to UVMHC Film Library with reports. Below we offer guidance on requirements for submitting referrals.

“Red Flag Symptoms”: Patients with constitutional symptoms (fever, chills, unexplained weight loss) or new bowel/bladder dysfunction should be first evaluated in an emergency department.

Urgent Referral to Orthopedics Spine for the following:

- Acute Motor or Sensory Deficit
- Rapid Neurologic Deterioration

Routine Referrals – Be sure to indicate if any of the following is present:

- Chronic motor deficits (true weakness, not give-way weakness)
- Chronic sensory deficits
- History of cancer
- Night/rest pain
- Pain in extremity greater than in the spine
- Reflex abnormalities

Requirements for Referral:

- Patient must complete 6 weeks of PT in the 6 months prior to referral (with documentation)
- Include relevant diagnostic imaging and reports. While MRI is not required, we highly recommend that it be done prior to referral as this could expedite evaluation
- Include information on any interventional procedures related to the complaint (epidural steroid injections, nerve blocks, trigger point injections, etc.)
- Indicate if complaint is part of a work-related injury/workers comp