

Neurology consultation requests for inpatients

An inpatient consultation is a request from one consultant to another consultant. A request for a neurology consultation for an inpatient should only be sent if it is specifically requested by the consultant under whom the patient is admitted. Even though a specialist registrar, general registrar, SHO or intern may be quite correct in their assessment that a patient should be seen by a neurologist, the request for an inpatient consultation should come from their consultant.

Neurology consultation requests should:

- be legible;
- be succinct;
- contain relevant information (including a printed copy of relevant imaging reports, not handwritten);
- be written by someone who actually knows the patient, in case they are called to give more information or clarification. It is not acceptable to be told "I don't know the patient, I was only asked to fill out the consultation form";
- include the name and pager number (both legible) of the consult writer,
- not contain random or made-up abbreviations;
- include a specific diagnosis (if already known), or a diagnosis or differential which you are concerned about;
- make it known whether the patient is already under the care of particular neurologist, either here or elsewhere, or has been seen by a neurologist in the past, and an attempt made to get old letters or notes;
- include an effort to find previous imaging, EEG or other relevant results, so that comparison with old test results can be made;
- **have a specific question or request that the admitting consultant needs answered or addressed. That is, what is the reason for this consultation request?**

Regards,

Peter Boers.

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