

Armidale Rural Referral Hospital
Rusden St, Armidale NSW 2350

Dr Guppy
Armidale General Practice
Armidale NSW 2430

11th October 2018

To Dr. Guppy,

RE: Charlotte Raegan
DOB: 08/07/1981

Thank you for your referral. I had the pleasure of reviewing Charlotte at the outpatient surgery clinic today. As you know, Charlotte has been experiencing some quite pronounced right sciatica symptoms, muscle weakness and sensory disturbance in right leg, dermatomes L5-S1.

On examination, Charlotte is not improved. She has a positive straight leg raise test, absence ankle jerks and noticeable weakness on her right leg when compared to left. Her MRI demonstrated a lumbar disc extrusion at L5-S1 impinging on the right nerve root, which is consistent with her symptoms.

Charlotte wishes to be referred to neurosurgery for intervention. I believe the length and severity of her symptoms are indications for evaluation for disc surgery. Charlotte and I discussed that surgery will only speed up recovery and patients who do and do not have surgery have the same outcomes at two years.

Charlotte and I also discussed analgesia; she wishes to continue on the tramadol for which I have provided her another 7-day script. She will be returning for review by you, with thanks, in one week. She has decided against an epidural corticosteroid injection until she is assessed by the neurosurgeons.

Would you kindly be able to refer Charlotte to the neurosurgery outpatient clinic at JHH.

Kind regards,

Dr Elsa Greenwood
Armidale Rural Referral Hospital
Surgical Registrar