

Quality of Referral Letters sent to a Paediatric Orthopaedic Clinic NACPRG Handout

Category	2016 Letters	2020 Letters	All letters
Patient demographics	100%	100%	100%
Initial statement identifying reason for referral	99.00%	88.30%	93.60%
Description of chief complaint	57.50%	66.00%	61.70%
Description of associated symptoms	25.60%	44.70%	35.10%
Description of relevant collateral history	20.20%	14.90%	17.60%
Relevant clinical findings	49.00%	47.90%	48.40%
Past medical history	30.60%	57.40%	51.60%
Past surgical history	13.90%	31.90%	22.90%
Relevant psychosocial history	4.30%	6.40%	5.40%
Current medication list	28.80%	34.00%	31.40%
Allergies	23.30%	38.30%	30.90%
Results of investigations to date	37.50%	51.10%	44.20%
Outline of management to date	24.50%	35.10%	29.80%
Provisional diagnosis or clinical impression	69.20%	61.70%	65.40%
Statement of what is expected from the referral	72.40%	57.40%	64.90%
One topic per paragraph	94.70%	92.60%	93.70%
Paragraphs with fewer than 5 sentences	85.10%	74.50%	79.80%
One idea per sentence	96.80%	99.00%	97.90%

Table 1: Evaluation of referral letters using a previously published tool. A total of 94 letters from 2016 and 2020 were reviewed. 47 letters were evaluated from 2016, and 47 letters were evaluated from 2020. Letters were also assessed as an overall group.