

CIRCULAR

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TRANSFER GUIDELINES FOR PEOPLE WITH BURN INJURY

This Circular supersedes Circulars 89/48 and 88/25

Circulars 89/48 and 88/25 advised staff of the location of specialised burns units, the referral networks for access to these units and appropriate clinical protocols for the care of burned patients.

The purpose of this circular is to advise staff of the issue of guidelines for transfer of people with burn injury. The guidelines were prepared by a group of experts working in major burns units.

Transfer Guidelines for People with Burn Injury provides advice on the acute management and transfer of patients with severe burn injuries. It provides recommendations for assessment, fluid resuscitation, stabilisation in preparation for transfer (respiratory, circulatory, gastrointestinal and wound care, pain management, tetanus immunisation) and transfer. The NSW Burns Transfer Information Chart included in these guidelines is the subject of a separate Circular 96/65 and should be completed for all patients transferred to specialist burns units.

These guidelines include criteria for referral to specialist burns units. Hospitals are asked to ensure that consultation takes place at presentation for patients fitting these criteria and are also encouraged to consult with burns units for advice and assistance at any stage. Contact details for specialist burns units in NSW are included in the guidelines.

Another Circular 96/63 deals with a related set of guidelines, *Management Guidelines for People with Burn Injury* which provides simple, practical advice for the management of people who have a burn injury, especially those that do not require transfer to a specialist burns unit.

The transfer guidelines are supplied as an attachment to this Circular.

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Director-General

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

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