
REFERRAL FOR VARICOSE VEINS TO A SPECIALIST VASCULAR SURGEON

Indications for referral include:

A. IMMEDIATE REFERRAL TO A&E

- Bleeding varicose veins - requires immediate referral to a vascular surgery unit.
- Extensive superficial thrombophlebitis affecting the major or minor saphenous vein. Due to high incidence of DVT referral for same Doppler scan or to a vascular surgeon is indicated.

B. EMERGENCY REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST

- Venous leg ulceration (a crack in the skin below the knee that has not healed within 2 weeks).

C. ROUTINE REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST

- Symptomatic primary or recurrent varicose veins (pain, swelling, heaviness, itching).
- Lower-limb skin changes, such as pigmentation or eczema, thought to be caused by chronic venous insufficiency.
- Non-extensive superficial vein thrombosis (characterised by the appearance of hard, painful veins) and suspected venous insufficiency.
- Healed venous leg ulcer.

Source:

NICE (July 2013). Varicose veins in the legs - The diagnosis and management of varicose veins