

PATIENT INFORMATION

Cauda Equina Syndrome

Warning Signs

Common Back Pain

Many patients have a combination of back pain, leg pain, leg numbness and weakness. These symptoms can be distressing for you but don't necessarily require emergency medical attention. A *Rare* but serious back condition, **Cauda Equina Syndrome**, can lead to permanent damage or disability and will need to be seen by an Emergency Specialist Team.

Cauda Equina Syndrome Warning Signs

A *combination* of:

- Loss of feeling/pins and needles in your genitals
- Numbness in or around your back passage
- Altered feeling when using toilet paper to wipe yourself
- Increasing difficulty when you try to urinate (retention)
- Loss of sensation when you pass urine
- Leaking urine or recent need to use pads (overflow)
- Loss of sensation when you pass a bowel motion
- Change in ability to achieve and erection or ejaculate
- Loss of sensation in genitals during sexual intercourse

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

Working with you, for you