



CHIR8511

Clinical Neurology

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Department of Chiropractic

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MChiroprac and (CHIR3106 or CHIR316) or ((CHIR6110 or CHIR602) and (CHIR6111 or CHIR603) and (CHIR6302 or CHIR604) and (CHIR6303 or CHIR605) and (CHIR6410 or CHIR606) and (CHIR6510 or CHIR608))

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit covers a wide spectrum of clinically relevant neurological conditions for chiropractic students. Students will develop competency in neurological examination and in formulating a differential diagnosis based on the patient's clinical presentation. The knowledge and understanding constructed in this way also enables students to discuss and analyse pertinent case studies with the necessary depth required. The knowledge and skills acquired during this unit are fundamental for diagnostic competence in chiropractic practice. A variety of teaching methods are employed, from lectures based on current evidence that are also made available online, to tutorials that are underpinned by a social constructivist approach to building knowledge, using the discussion of case studies to develop diagnostic skill.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Perform the clinical neuromusculoskeletal history taking and examination competently

ULO2: Draw on acquired theoretical knowledge in order to tailor the physical examination to the clinical presentation of the patient, and from this develop a differential diagnosis and clinical management plan.

ULO3: Demonstrate well developed clinical reasoning skills and the ability to diagnose conditions that are suitable for chiropractic care, and identify conditions that are contraindicated for chiropractic care including conditions of non-musculoskeletal origin.

ULO4: Acquire knowledge to evaluate conditions, research these cases further using appropriate reference material and communicate findings

ULO5: Develop a respect and empathy for patients, and an ethical and professional attitude to health care. In this regard, you should develop a commitment to remain informed and up-to-date in your profession

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade

descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
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1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
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2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
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3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
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7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
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>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0
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Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete an assessment task on or by the specified date due circumstances that are unexpected, unavoidable, significantly disruptive and beyond your control, you may apply for special consideration in accordance with the [special consideration policy](#). Applications for special consideration must be supported by appropriate evidence and submitted via ask.mq.edu.au.

Examinations

The Semester 1 University Examination period is from: 10 -27 June, 2025

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University examination timetable. The timetable will be available in draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for special consideration. The University's Special Consideration Policy can be found at: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>. Information can also be found at <https://students.mq.edu.a>

[u/study/my-study-program/special-consideration](#)

Students with a pre-existing disability/health condition or prolonged adverse circumstances may be eligible for ongoing assistance and support. Such support is governed by other policies and may be sought and coordinated through [Campus Wellbeing and Support Services](#).

If a supplementary examination is granted as a result of special consideration, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

If you receive [special consideration](#) for the final exam, a supplementary exam will be scheduled in the interval between the regular exam period and the start of the next session. By making a special consideration application for the final exam you are declaring yourself available for a resit during the supplementary examination period and will not be eligible for a second special consideration approval based on pre-existing commitments. Please ensure you are familiar with the [policy](#) prior to submitting an application. You can check the supplementary exam information page on FSE101 in iLearn (bit.ly/FSESupp) for dates, and approved applicants will receive an individual notification one week prior to the exam with the exact date and time of their supplementary examination.

NOTE: Supplementary exams may be in a different format to the exam set in the normal examination period.

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. You are expected to ensure that you are available until the end of the teaching semester that is the final day of the official examination period.

[Returning Assessment Task](#)

[S](#)

1. Quizzes: automatic feedback is given when the quiz is closed
2. OSCEs: Students will receive feedback during the examination, and in the term I OSCE, further feedback will be given in the tutorial.
3. Examination: Papers will not be returned. Marks will be incorporated into the final unit grade.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
OSCE I	25%	No	Week 7
Final written examination	50%	No	Official Exam Period
VIVA and OSCE II	25%	No	Week 13

OSCE I

Assessment Type ¹: Clinical performance evaluation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

The OSCE will assess competency in performing the neurological examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Perform the clinical neuromusculoskeletal history taking and examination competently
- Draw on acquired theoretical knowledge in order to tailor the physical examination to the clinical presentation of the patient, and from this develop a differential diagnosis and clinical management plan.
- Demonstrate well developed clinical reasoning skills and the ability to diagnose conditions that are suitable for chiropractic care, and identify conditions that are contraindicated for chiropractic care including conditions of non-musculoskeletal origin.
- Acquire knowledge to evaluate conditions, research these cases further using appropriate reference material and communicate findings
- Develop a respect and empathy for patients, and an ethical and professional attitude to health care. In this regard, you should develop a commitment to remain informed and up-to-date in your profession

Final written examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Official Exam Period**

Weighting: **50%**

The final exam tests your knowledge of the theory, and the ability to connect that knowledge to real life situations (e.g. case studies, clinical presentations).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Draw on acquired theoretical knowledge in order to tailor the physical examination to the clinical presentation of the patient, and from this develop a differential diagnosis and clinical management plan.
- Demonstrate well developed clinical reasoning skills and the ability to diagnose

conditions that are suitable for chiropractic care, and identify conditions that are contraindicated for chiropractic care including conditions of non-musculoskeletal origin.

- Acquire knowledge to evaluate conditions, research these cases further using appropriate reference material and communicate findings

VIVA and OSCE II

Assessment Type ¹: Clinical performance evaluation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **25%**

The OSCE will assess competency in applying the Clinical Decision Framework to a case study, skill in differential diagnosis, and performing the neurological examination

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Perform the clinical neuromusculoskeletal history taking and examination competently
- Draw on acquired theoretical knowledge in order to tailor the physical examination to the clinical presentation of the patient, and from this develop a differential diagnosis and clinical management plan.
- Demonstrate well developed clinical reasoning skills and the ability to diagnose conditions that are suitable for chiropractic care, and identify conditions that are contraindicated for chiropractic care including conditions of non-musculoskeletal origin.
- Acquire knowledge to evaluate conditions, research these cases further using appropriate reference material and communicate findings
- Develop a respect and empathy for patients, and an ethical and professional attitude to health care. In this regard, you should develop a commitment to remain informed and up-to-date in your profession

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery mode

This unit is characterised by a moderate degree of flexibility. It incorporates a variety of learning tools and media. It will comprise:

	ACTIVITY	Total
Lectures	2 × 2 hour lectures per week online	4 hours per week, weeks 1-12
Tutorials	2 × 2 hour tutorial class per week, weeks 2 – 12	4 hours per week, weeks 2-12
Other	Revision, self-instructional learning, preparation for tutorials and readings from the manual/text	2.5 hours per week

For further details on class time and locations for this unit follow the link below:

http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/timetables

Unit Web Page

You can log in to iLearn System via the link listed below:

<https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/>

All lecture materials will be posted on ilearn, and there is also a link to ECHO360 for recordings of the lectures.

Required and recommended resources

Required:

1. CHIR8511 – Clinical Neurology *Tutorial Course Manual* 2025 – This has been uploaded to iLearn. Please be sure to either download, print and bind the manual, or have an iPad or laptop to access the manual during the tutorial.

Recommended:

- Blumenfeld H (2010) *Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases*. 2nd ed. Sinauer Associates Inc, Massachusetts. Distributed by Palgrave Macmillan, Victoria, Australia.
- Souza TA (2005) *Differential diagnosis and management for the chiropractor* 3rd ed. Jones & Bartlett Pub, Massachusetts.

Required Diagnostic Equipment (Neurological Diagnosis Kit):

1. A diagnostic set with otoscope and ophthalmoscope
2. A tailor's measuring tape
3. A 128Hz or 256Hz (vibration) **and also** a 512Hz (auditory) tuning fork
4. Neurotips
5. Long stem cotton tips/long cotton swabs
6. Disposable tongue depressors
7. Tomahawk reflex hammer
8. A number of tactile items e.g., key, coin etc
9. A mathematical set divider

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study

- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

The assessments have been changed to meet the new assessment regulations. The online quizzes are now formative assessment. The second OSCE is now a VIVA and OSCE II

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

PROFESSIONALISM

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we

would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)