



CHIR6303

Pathology and Diagnosis B

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Chiropractic

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Contact via Email

By appointment only

Co-Convenor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

CHIR6302 or CHIR604

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores the aetiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and differential diagnosis of common conditions of the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive, and integumentary systems. You will apply your acquired knowledge to clinical cases to develop your ability to create a differential diagnosis based on clinical presentation and examination. You will learn to identify common conditions that present to the chiropractor, including non-musculoskeletal conditions that present with or mimic musculoskeletal pain. You will learn about the complexity of disease within the biopsychosocial framework that will deepen your understanding of the complex relationship between ourselves and our environment.

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: Discuss the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and relationship with clinical manifestations for a range of conditions that occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive, and integumentary systems. (Scientist and Scholar)

ULO2: Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states within a biopsychosocial framework as related to the conditions covered in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)

ULO3: Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology to explain the likely mode of progression of the conditions studied in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)

ULO4: Demonstrate the fundamental skills required for clinical decision-making to integrate information on aetiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations to formulate a differential diagnosis related to conditions covered in this or the preceding pathology and diagnosis unit. (Clinical Practitioner)

ULO5: Discuss non-musculoskeletal conditions, related to the body systems covered in this unit, that commonly present to a chiropractor and reflect on the need for chiropractors to have a sound knowledge and understanding of these conditions. (Clinical Practitioner)

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 127-8).

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
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Demonstration Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours Due: **As arranged in the tutorial** Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

You will individually choose a question or case study in that week's tutorial and give a presentation according to a rubric

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the common pathologies that can occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive and integumentary systems.
- Integrate your knowledge of the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and clinical presentation of common disorders
- Compare and contrast diseases on the basis of aetiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and clinical manifestations
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states.
- Demonstrate fundamental skills required for decision-making and clinical reasoning necessary for differential diagnosis

Final Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours Due: **In the official examination period** Weighting: **50%** Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

You will complete a written examination that will cover the content delivered in this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the common pathologies that can occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive and integumentary systems.
- Integrate your knowledge of the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and clinical presentation of common disorders
- Compare and contrast diseases on the basis of aetiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and clinical manifestations
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states.
- Demonstrate fundamental skills required for decision-making and clinical reasoning necessary for differential diagnosis

Case Study Assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours Due: **Week 8, 14/09/2026** Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Short extension ³: No AI Approach:

Write a draft case study and submit it to AI for analysis according to specific criteria. Once AI has reported on errors and given suggestions for improvement, you will address each of the website's comments in a report and then redraft the case study.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the common pathologies that can occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive and integumentary systems.
- Integrate your knowledge of the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and clinical presentation of common disorders
- Compare and contrast diseases on the basis of aetiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and clinical manifestations
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states.
- Demonstrate fundamental skills required for decision-making and clinical reasoning necessary for differential diagnosis

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

- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Case study assignment	25%	No	14/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Presentation	25%	No	Present once in semester, weeks 1-12	Individual and Group	No	Observed
Theory examination	50%	No	University Official Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Case study assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **14/09/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will submit a draft case study for feedback, critically analyse and address the feedback, then resubmit a final draft.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and relationship with clinical manifestations for a range of conditions that occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive, and integumentary systems. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states within a biopsychosocial framework as related to the conditions covered in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)

- Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology to explain the likely mode of progression of the conditions studied in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Demonstrate the fundamental skills required for clinical decision-making to integrate information on aetiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations to formulate a differential diagnosis related to conditions covered in this or the preceding pathology and diagnosis unit. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Discuss non-musculoskeletal conditions, related to the body systems covered in this unit, that commonly present to a chiropractor and reflect on the need for chiropractors to have a sound knowledge and understanding of these conditions. (Clinical Practitioner)

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Present once in semester, weeks 1-12**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will present on a question or case study as part of a team.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and relationship with clinical manifestations for a range of conditions that occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive, and integumentary systems. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states within a biopsychosocial framework as related to the conditions covered in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology to explain the likely mode of progression of the conditions studied in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Demonstrate the fundamental skills required for clinical decision-making to integrate information on aetiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations to formulate a differential diagnosis related to conditions covered in this or the preceding pathology and diagnosis unit. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Discuss non-musculoskeletal conditions, related to the body systems covered in this unit, that commonly present to a chiropractor and reflect on the need for chiropractors to have a sound knowledge and understanding of these conditions. (Clinical Practitioner)

Theory examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **University Official Exam Period**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

End of session examination on all content covered in the session

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, pathophysiology and relationship with clinical manifestations for a range of conditions that occur in the nervous, musculoskeletal, renal, reproductive, and integumentary systems. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Explain the multifactorial nature of the development of disease states within a biopsychosocial framework as related to the conditions covered in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology to explain the likely mode of progression of the conditions studied in this unit. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Demonstrate the fundamental skills required for clinical decision-making to integrate information on aetiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations to formulate a differential diagnosis related to conditions covered in this or the preceding pathology and diagnosis unit. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Discuss non-musculoskeletal conditions, related to the body systems covered in this unit, that commonly present to a chiropractor and reflect on the need for chiropractors to have a sound knowledge and understanding of these conditions. (Clinical Practitioner)

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
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

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³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

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	1 × 2 hour lecture per week pre-recorded online	2 hours per week, weeks 1-12
Tutorials	1 × 2 hours tutorial class per week, weeks 2 – 13 Tutorials are on campus. Note that you must attend just one tutorial a week	2 hours per week, weeks 2-13
Other	Revision, self-instructional learning, preparation for tutorials and readings from the manual/text	6 – 8 hours per week

Please note that the venues are subject to change until just before the start of the semester. So, 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/>

Your username is your student MQID. Your MQID and password have been mailed to you by the university. If you have lost them, go to the student portal: <http://students.mq.edu.au/home>

All lecture materials will be posted on ilearn. There is also a link to ECHO360 for **audio** recordings of the lectures, and the powerpoint is uploaded into the lecture timetable.

Required and recommended resources

Required:

1. *HLTH3303/CHIR6303 Tutorial Course Manual 2026* – 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:

- Craft JA *et al* (2018) Understanding Pathophysiology ANZ, 3rd Edition, Elsevier Australia
- McCance KL *et al* (2019) Pathophysiology – The biologic basis of disease in adults and children, 8th Edition, Elsevier Australia.

Unit Schedule

WEEK	PRE-RECORDED LECTURE TOPIC	TUTORIAL
1 JUL 27	L1: Nervous System 1	None
2 AUG 03	L2: Nervous System 2	T1: Nervous System 1
3 AUG 10	L3: Nervous System 3	T2: Nervous System 2
4 AUG 17	L4: Musculoskeletal System 1	T3: Nervous System 3
5 AUG 24	L5: Musculoskeletal System 2	T4: Musculoskeletal System 1
6 AUG 31	L6: Musculoskeletal System 3	T5: Musculoskeletal System 2
7 SEPT 07	L7: Urinary System 1	T6: Musculoskeletal System 3
8 SEPT 14	L8: Urinary System 2	None Case Study Assessment Task Due 14/09/26
SEPT 21-OCT 5 MID-SEMESTER BREAK		
9 OCT 06	L9: Reproductive System 1	T7: Presentations
10 OCT 12	L10: Reproductive System 2	T8: Urinary System
11 OCT 19	L11: Integumentary System	T9: Reproductive System

12 OCT 26	None	T10: Integumentary System
13 NOV 2	None	T11: History Taking Seminar

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/>

Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Diversity and Inclusion

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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)