

Cauda Equina Syndrome

You have completed an online digital triage. The answers you have given indicate you need to attend A&E **immediately** to be screened for **Cauda Equina Syndrome (CES)**.

CES is a rare but **serious** condition which may be associated with back pain, and which does require **emergency medical attention**.

When you attend A&E, you need to make them aware of the symptoms you have been getting.

Symptoms of CES can include:

- Lower back pain and pain in both legs.
- Loss of feeling or pins and needles (tingling) in your inner thighs or genitals.
- Numbness in or around your back passage.
- Altered feeling when using toilet paper to wipe yourself.
- Increased difficulty trying to urinate.
- Leaking or difficulty trying to stop or control your flow of urine.
- Not knowing when your bladder or bowels are full or empty.
- Loss of sensation when passing urine or stools.
- A change in sexual function - such as a change in the ability to achieve an erection or ejaculate.
- Loss of feeling in your genital region during sexual intercourse.
- Difficulty walking and/or heaviness in your legs.

It is important you **act immediately** if you have one or more of these symptoms. Delaying a medical assessment could **seriously impact** your long-term health.

Please take this information to A&E with you.