

Warning signs for Cauda Equina

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 in the Accident and Emergency department.**

- Loss of feeling / pins and needles between in / around your genital/back passage region. (The area you wipe after toileting)
- Increasing difficulty when you try to urinate
- Increasing difficulty when you try to stop or control your flow of urine
- Loss of sensation when you urinate or open your bowels
- Since the onset of your symptoms leaking urine / recent need to use pads
- Not knowing when your bladder is full / empty
- Inability to stop bowel movements / leaking of your bowel
- Changes in your sexual function since your symptoms
- Loss of sensation in genitals during sexual intercourse
- A change in the ability to achieve an erection or ejaculate

For this information in other languages visit:

<https://www.eoemskservice.nhs.uk/advice-and-leaflets/lower-back/cauda-equina>