Functional neurological disorder in one page

What it is

What is FND?

FND, or functional neurological disorder, is a brain condition where the nervous system does not work as it should, though its structure is not damaged. It can cause seizures, weakness or tiredness. It is among the most common diagnoses in neurology clinics, and treatment helps.

- FND is a problem with how the brain works
- FND is common in neurology clinics
- About 21 500 Australians live with FND

Medication

Is there a medicine for both?

Not for FND itself. Australian FND recommendations say the evidence for medicine to treat FND is limited, and psychiatric medicines should be prescribed with caution. A psychiatrist may still use medicine or therapy for a condition that comes with FND, such as PTSD. Therapy and rehabilitation are the main FND treatments.

- No proven medicine for FND itself
- Psychiatric medicines are used with caution
- A psychiatrist treats coexisting PTSD

Treatment

Who treats FND, and how do I see them?

A team, and the neurologist who diagnosed you starts it. Your GP holds your care together, and a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, psychologist or speech pathologist joins as needed, by ordinary referral or GP plan.

- The neurologist points you to the right kind of therapy.
- Your GP carries your care long term.
- To see the neurologist, you need a GP referral.

What it costs

What does it cost under Medicare?

It depends on whether you use public or private services, and on each clinician's fee. Australian FND recommendations say public services for FND are limited and private care is a real money burden for many people. A GP management plan is one way into more funded therapy. Ask each practice for its fee in writing.

- Public FND services are limited
- Private care can cost a lot
- A GP plan can open funded therapy

Read next

- How do I get a referral to a neurologist? →
- How do I find a physio or psychologist for FND? →
- Does Medicare pay for FND therapies? →
- Is there free or low-cost FND treatment? →
- Can I get the NDIS with FND? →
- Can I drive if I have functional seizures? →
- What can I ask for at work with FND? →
- What does my child's school need for FND? →
- The FND quiz →

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