Description of Service:
The Rheumatology clinic provides specialised assessment and treatment of patients with the following conditions.

Services Provided:
- Spondyloarthritis e.g. ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis
- Inflammatory connective tissue diseases e.g. systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögrens syndrome, systemic sclerosis and inflammatory muscle diseases
- Systemic inflammatory disease e.g. giant cell arteritis
- Recent onset arthritis e.g. rheumatoid arthritis
- Crystal-induced arthritis e.g. gout
- Physiotherapist-led clinic for complicated non-inflammatory musculoskeletal conditions and fast track recent onset arthritis (bulk bill only)
- Rheumatological ultrasound

Exclusions:
- Paediatrics
- Patients receiving care for the same condition at another LHN.
- Metabolic bone disease

For admission or **URGENT** advice contact the Rheumatology Registrar:
Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Ph: (08) 7074 0000

*Alternatively, if the problem is urgent and the patient is unstable, the patient should be sent directly to the Emergency Department of the nearest hospital for assessment.*

For more information or to make a referral contact
Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Fax: (08) 7074 6247 Ph: 1300 153 853
Rheumatology Dept Secretary 7074 2779

Or refer to [Health Pathways South Australia](#) for guides to best practice, management and referral of common Rheumatology clinical conditions.

**Essential Referral Content:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Clinical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Date of birth</td>
<td>&gt; Reason for referral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Contact details (including mobile phone)</td>
<td>&gt; Duration of symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Referring GP details</td>
<td>&gt; Relevant pathology and imaging reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Interpreter requirements</td>
<td>&gt; Past medical history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Medicare number</td>
<td>&gt; Current medications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Name of consultant requested if patient opts to be treated as a private patient</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
## Adult Triage Criteria for referral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency</th>
<th>Category 1</th>
<th>Category 2</th>
<th>Category 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct to Emergency Department and phone the on call specialist or registrar.</td>
<td>Target within 4 weeks</td>
<td>Target within 3 months</td>
<td>Target &gt;3 months</td>
</tr>
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<td>Urgent cases must be discussed with the registrar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See SA Health Median and Maximum Outpatient Waiting Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected long wait</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Emergency**
  - Acute monoarthritis where sepsis cannot be excluded
  - Giant cell arteritis
  - Systemic vasculitis
  - Acutely unwell SLE
  - Rheumatological drug complications (e.g. methotrexate pneumonitis)

- **Category 1**
  - New onset or severely disabling flares of:
    - Polyarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis
    - Polymyalgia rheumatica
    - Polyarticular gout
    - Systemic vasculitis
    - SLE
  - Persistent inflammatory condition resulting in moderate functional impairment:
    - Rheumatoid arthritis
    - Systemic vasculitis
    - Connective tissue disorder
    - Inflammatory muscle disease
    - Spondyloarthritides

- **Category 2**
  - Major GP diagnostic problems of musculoskeletal type especially with intercurrent disease elsewhere
    - Suspected connective tissue disease
    - Possible paraneoplastic syndromes
  - Persistent inflammatory conditions especially where independence and livelihood is compromised
    - Patients with dependent spouse
    - Patients with multiple medical problems also causing disability
    - Patients unable to continue in employment.
  - Patient with stable rheumatological conditions and able to function in the community
    - Acute exacerbation of osteoarthritis
    - Soft tissue rheumatism
    - Assessment for rehabilitation

- **Category 3**
  - Do not usually need to see a rheumatologist unless there are atypical features
    - Fibromyalgia
    - Other chronic pain syndromes
    - Chronic osteoarthritis

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For more information or to make a referral
Royal Adelaide Hospital: Level 5E.1
Referral Fax Number: (08) 7074 6247
Phone Number: 1300 153 853

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Ground Floor Area 3
Referral Fax Number: (08) 8222 6233
Phone Number: (08) 8222 7020

Web: [www.sahealth.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.gov.au)

Acknowledgement: This document has had the final approval from the head of unit:
Rheumatology Department

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Review date</th>
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