

Rheumatology

Outpatient service information, triage and referral guidelines

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 (bulkbill 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:

Demographic

- > Date of birth
- > Contact details (including mobile phone)
- > Referring GP details
- > Interpreter requirements
- > Medicare number
- > Name of consultant requested if patient opts to be treated as a private patient

Clinical

- > Reason for referral
- > Duration of symptoms
- > Relevant pathology and imaging reports
- > Past medical history
- > Current medications



Adult Triage Criteria for referral

Emergency	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<p>Direct to Emergency Department and phone the on call specialist or registrar.</p>	<p>Target within 4 weeks <i>Urgent cases must be discussed with the registrar</i></p>	<p>Target within 3 months</p>	<p>Target >3 months <i>See SA Health Median and Maximum Outpatient Waiting Time</i> Expected long wait</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Acute monoarthritis where sepsis cannot be excluded > Giant cell arteritis > Systemic vasculitis > Acutely unwell SLE > Rheumatological drug complications (e.g. methotrexate pneumonitis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > New onset or severely disabling flares of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Polyarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis - Polymyalgia rheumatica - Polyarticular gout - Systemic vasculitis - SLE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Persistent inflammatory condition resulting in moderate functional impairment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rheumatoid arthritis - Systemic vasculitis - Connective tissue disorder - Inflammatory muscle disease - Spondyloarthritis > Major GP diagnostic problems of musculoskeletal type especially with intercurrent disease elsewhere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspected connective tissue disease - Possible paraneoplastic syndromes > Persistent inflammatory conditions especially where independence and livelihood is compromised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patients with dependent spouse - Patients with multiple medical problems also causing disability - Patients unable to continue in employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Patient with stable rheumatological conditions and able to function in the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute exacerbation of osteoarthritis - Soft tissue rheumatism - Assessment for rehabilitation > Do not usually need to see a rheumatologist unless there are atypical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fibromyalgia - Other chronic pain syndromes - Chronic osteoarthritis

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

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Rheumatology Department

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