

Rheumatology

This document provides an overview of SALHN Rheumatology. Click on the following links for referral and management guidelines for specific conditions. All required information and investigations outlined in these links need to be provided on the referral to enable appropriate triaging. Referrals that do not include the required information will be returned to the referring doctor.

Services provided

- [Acute onset polyarthritis](#)
- [Acute onset monoarthritis](#)
- [Subacute onset single or several joint arthritis](#)
- [Inflammatory back pain](#)
- [Multisystem/Connective Tissue Disorders/Vasculitis](#)
- [Muscle pain and weakness](#)
- [Regional soft tissue rheumatism/complex regional pain syndrome](#)
- [Chronic generalised or chronic back pain](#)
- Monitoring of established rheumatological disease

Services not provided

- Osteoporosis – refer to Fragility Fracture Clinic at RGH if >50yo with a fracture or Metabolic bone clinic at RGH for other indications
- Physiotherapy or rehabilitation – please refer to the appropriate departments

For Appointments fax referrals to

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)

Fax: 8204 6105 (Clinic B)

Repatriation General Hospital (RGH)

Fax: 8374 2591 (GP liaison)

Triage Criteria for Referral

Category 1 Target within 2 weeks Current < 2 weeks	Category 2 Target within 3 months Current < 12 months	Category 3 Target within 6 months Current >2 years
<p>***Inflammatory conditions with major organ involvement call Rheumatology Registrar or Rheumatologist on call***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint stiffness & swelling > 6wks with elevated CRP,ESR • Acute presentation of connective tissue disorder without major organ involvement • Complicated acute gout preventing use of standard therapy • Inflammatory myopathy without major organ involvement or dysfunction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected inflammatory arthritis • Inflammatory back pain >12wks • Complicated polymyalgia rheumatic preventing the use of standard therapy • Suspected connective tissue disorder • Complicated chronic gout preventing use of standard therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of stable established rheumatological disease • Chronic generalised or back pain • Soft tissue rheumatism

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	August 2014	August 2016	Original