

Dr. Lisa Carroll
RHEUMATOLOGIST

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Patients with suspected early inflammatory arthritis should be seen as a matter of urgency **as early treatment improves morbidity and mortality**. These patients will be given an urgent appointment within 3 to 4 weeks wherever possible.

Selection will depend on the likelihood of this condition based on the criteria below provided by the referring doctor.

Name:

DOB:

Patient contact details:

Doctor name and Provider number:

Doctor contact details:

Please tick if present

History:

- Pain and/or swelling in several joints
- Early morning stiffness > or = half hour
- Deteriorating function of the affected joints
- MCP or MTP involvement

Examination:

- Squeeze tenderness of MCP or MTP
- Tenderness, swelling and warmth of the affected joints

Please provide if performed

Investigations:

- ESR
- CRP
- Rheumatoid factor
- CCP antibody

Appropriate referrals for urgent review include any patient with features suggestive of early inflammatory arthritis whose symptoms are of less than 1-yr duration **and who have not seen a rheumatologist before**.

Please also provide details of past medical history and medications separately if using this template.

Referrals for patients with non inflammatory conditions such as fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, soft tissue rheumatism or mechanical low back pain will be assessed according to information provided on their referral and may be given an early appointment depending on availability.