

Rheumatology Specialist Clinics at Western Health:

Western Health provides the Specialist Clinics for patients who require assessment and management of Rheumatology conditions. The focus of the clinics is to provide management and treatment for the conditions listed below:

- Rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriatic arthritis, Seronegative arthritis
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
- Giant cell arteritis
- Vasculitis
- Refractory Gout
- Other Autoimmune Connective Tissue Diseases (Scleroderma, Myositis, Sjogren's, Mixed Connective Tissue Disease, Undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease)
- Complex undifferentiated autoimmune or inflammatory conditions

Conditions not seen by Rheumatology Specialists at Western Health:

- Osteoarthritis of the hand, hip and knees – Consider referral to Western Health Osteoarthritis Hip and Knee Service (OAHKS)
- Chronic pain syndromes including Fibromyalgia and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome – Consider referral to pain clinic
- Mechanical low back pain, neck pain, shoulder pain
- Osteoporosis – Consider referral to metabolic bone clinic
- Ehlers Danlos Syndrome – Consider referral to genetics clinic
- Positive Antinuclear antibody (ANA) or Rheumatoid factor (RF) blood tests without clinical symptoms
 - Clinical symptoms: mouth/nasal ulcerations, Alopecia, Raynaud's, Inflammatory Arthritis, Photosensitive rash, Proteinuria/Haematuria

Alarm Symptoms:

- **Giant Cell Arteritis** - Please contact 8345 6666 and ask for Rheumatology registrar to discuss evaluation, management and review. Alternatively, consider referral to the Emergency Department

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Access & Referral Priority Rheumatology:

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

URGENT Appointment timeframe 30 days	ROUTINE Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days, depending on clinical need.
<p>Vasculitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient with central nervous system (CNS), renal, pulmonary or cardiac involvement <p>SLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient with CNS, renal, pulmonary or cardiac involvement 	<p>Inflammatory Arthritis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For further investigations and management <p>Ankylosing Spondylitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For further investigations and management <p>Refractory Gout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For management plan <p>Connective tissue diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For further investigations and management • Unless end organ involvement

Condition Specific Referral Guidelines:

Key information enables Western Health to triage patients to the correct category and provide treatment with fewer visits to specialist clinics, creating more capacity for care. If key information is missing, you may be asked to return the referral with the required information.

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Required Clinical Investigations:
Inflammatory arthritis of peripheral joints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details of Inflammatory symptoms (early morning stiffness, joint swelling, improvement with activity) in referral • Family history • Previous treatment 	<p>Pathology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • Rheumatoid Factor (RF) • Anti-cyclic Citrullinated Peptide (Anti-CCP)
Refractory Gout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current treatment • Previous treatment 	<p>Pathology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • Uric Acid level

Western Health Specialist Clinics Access & Referral Guidelines

Condition:	Key Information Points:	Required Clinical Investigations:
Ankylosing Spondylitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past medical history, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uveitis ○ Inflammatory Bowel Disease ○ Dactylitis ○ Psoriasis • Family history of Ankylosing Spondylitis 	Pathology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • HLA-B27 Imaging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X-Rays: pelvis or sacroiliac, lumbar, cervical • Previous spinal or pelvic imaging including MRI
Connective Tissue Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current symptoms • Previous treatment • Patients referred with an elevated ANA should have other potential features of SLE) 	Pathology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) • Extractable Nuclear Antigens (ENA) • DsDNA, C3, C4 • Urine protein, Cr ratio • Urine microscopy
Vasculitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current symptoms • Previous treatment 	Pathology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • Anti-neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA) • Urine protein, Cr ratio • Urine microscopy
Myositis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current symptoms • Previous treatment 	Pathology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Blood Examination (FBE) • Urea, Electrolytes, and Creatinine (UEC) • Liver Function Test's (LFTs) • Inflammatory markers: C-reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) • Creatine Kinase (CK) • Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) • Extractable Nuclear Antigens (ENA)