

31 May 2022

## **Secondary Care Referral Pathways for patients with suspected axial SpA to Rheumatology**

### **1. On behalf of which Trust are you responding?**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

### **Part 1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools**

### **2. Does your Trust have an internal referral pathway to rheumatology from:**

#### **a) Dermatology**

Yes. For internal referrals it is a consultant-to-consultant dictated letter which would be graded as must see 6/52 new patient appointment.

#### **b) Gastroenterology**

Yes. For internal referrals it is a consultant-to-consultant dictated letter which would be graded as must see 6/52 new patient appointment.

#### **c) Ophthalmology**

Yes. For internal referrals it is a consultant-to-consultant dictated letter which would be graded as must see 6/52 new patient appointment.

### **3. Please give details of any standard internal pathways in place. Please attach any documents to support this.**

As above. Dermatology / Rheumatology also have a combined Psoriatic Disease Clinic and therefore psoriasis patients suspected to have axial SpA can be referred directly to that.

### **4. What referral protocols are in place, e.g. are patients referred back to the GP with consideration / instruction to refer onward for rheumatology opinion?**

No, this should never be the case. This is not appropriate use of resources. Patients are directly referred, Consultant to Consultant via a dictated letter.

31 May 2022

**5. Does your trust utilise any screening tools such as Dublin Uveitis Evaluation Tool (DUET) or Psoriasis Epidemiology Screening Tool (PEST)**

Yes – psoriasis patients are screened using PEST though this is not useful to detect pure axial disease and therefore this is screened for with a history +/- examination.

**6. Please give details of any screening tools in place. Please attach any documents to support this.**

PEST score.

**Part 2 – Internal referral volumes**

**7. Are you able to track internal referral volumes on your systems?  
Yes/No/Not sure/Don't know**

**8. How often do you receive referrals for suspected axial SpA in  
rheumatology from:**

**a) Dermatology**

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Less often
- Never

**b) Gastroenterology**

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Less often
- Never

**c) Ophthalmology**

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Less often
- Never