

Your Rheumatology Specialist  
Nurses are:

Lynne Kerton  
Tracy Arnold  
Gill Ortiz  
Natasha Chesterman

**Telephone: Monday to Friday**  
**01793 604323**  
(answer phone)

Useful Contact Numbers:

Arthritis Research Campaign  
0870 850 5000  
[www.arc.org.uk](http://www.arc.org.uk)

Arthritis Care  
020 7380 6500  
[www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)

National Rheumatoid Arthritis  
Society  
01628 670606  
[www.rheumatoid.org.uk](http://www.rheumatoid.org.uk)

National Osteoporosis Society  
01761 471771  
[www.nos.org.uk](http://www.nos.org.uk)

National Ankylosing Spondylitis  
Society  
01435 873527

**If you would like this information  
in another format, i.e. large print  
or another language, please  
contact the Patient Advice and  
Liaison Service (PALS)  
department on 01793 604031**

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# Patient Information

**Rheumatology  
Specialist  
Nurse Service**

Telephone  
Advice Line:  
**01793 604323**

## THE RHEUMATOLOGY SPECIALIST NURSE CLINIC

- This is a clinic set up to address the needs of patients who have been diagnosed with an inflammatory arthritis including, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

### Who will I see?

- You will see a nurse who specialises in the treatment of your condition.

### What can the Specialist Nurse offer?

- Half hour appointments.
- Support, advice and guidance to help you manage your symptoms.
- Information about your arthritis.
- Assessment, monitoring and treatment of your condition. It may take a little time to find the best treatment for you.
- Assessment and monitoring of your medication. You are likely to need regular blood and/or urine tests to check that your treatment is effective and not causing side effects.

- Direct referrals to other departments such as x-ray, physiotherapy, orthotics or occupational therapy can be made as appropriate.
- Advice and support when your arthritis is active.
- A telephone advice line to offer information and support.

## PATIENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

- You will be given the opportunity to attend an information workshop.
- The aim of this session is to give you confidence and knowledge to help you manage your condition.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- You will receive information about your condition and your medication. Do please read it and discuss any points you may have with the practitioner.
- Remember-your appointment is time for you. The more you know about your arthritis and your treatment, the better you will be able to manage your condition. We encourage questions!
- **Please bring a list of your medication with you to clinic.**

## TELEPHONE ADVICE LINE

- The advice line is there for you to contact us if you have any problems or concerns regarding your rheumatology condition or medication only.
- In the event that no one is in the office when you ring please leave a message with your name, hospital number and telephone number. Without this information we may not be able to get back in touch with you.
- We will endeavour to get back to you within 24-48 hours.
- **Please Note:** This is not an emergency service and there is no out of hours service. If your call is urgent please contact your GP.
- **Please Note:** This advice line deals with a high level of calls therefore it would be appreciated if you could please direct your call accordingly.

### For appointments please ring :

01793 604050 Great Western Hospital

01672 517265 Savernake Hospital

### For DAWN queries please ring

01793 604204

**Advice Line: 01793 604323**