



## Information about your appointment at the Rheumatology Outpatient Department

### ***Who will I see in the clinic?***

- You will be seen by a rheumatology specialist. This may be a Consultant or Registrar.
- You may see more than one doctor.
- There may be teaching of doctors or medical students in clinic.

### ***What will happen when I arrive?***

- You will have your height, weight and blood pressure measured.
- Please be prepared to do a urine sample.

### ***How quickly will I be seen by a doctor after I arrive?***

- We aim to see you at the time of your appointment. However, appointments may be delayed by urgent or complicated problems with other patients. Please bear with us.

### ***Please bring a list of all your current medications with you to your appointment***

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### ***What will happen during the consultation?***

You are likely to be asked about the following:

- Your current symptoms
- Past medical problems
- Family medical problems
- Current medications
- Smoking, alcohol and lifestyle
- Please be prepared to be examined by the doctor and wear clothes that you feel comfortable in.
- You might need an injection into a joint or muscle

## ***What will happen after the consultation?***

*You may need :*

- Blood tests
- An X-ray or other scan. This may happen on the same day or at a later date. You will be informed of the results either by letter or at your next appointment.
- A letter will be sent to your GP to let them know about the result of the consultation. You will be sent a copy of this letter.
- Most patients are discharged from clinic back to the care of their GPs. If you do require a follow up appointment, you will receive a letter to let you know when it is.

## ***Things to remember before attending the outpatient department:***

- Your allocated consultation time is 20 minutes. During this time we aim to establish if you have a treatable rheumatological condition.
- We do not provide assessments for fitness to work.
- Allow the whole morning or afternoon as you may need bloods or X-rays.
- Bring your current drug list and a list of any allergies.
- Expect to do a urine sample when you arrive.
- Wear clothes that you would feel comfortable to be examined in.
- Think about the specific questions that you would like to ask the doctors.

You can write these below and bring them with you:

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