

	Clinical Protocol: Rheumatology Referral	
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PREPARED BY: Joanne Calegari	APPROVED BY: Richard Sohn, MD	

PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

This Clinical Protocol advises on indications for Rheumatology Referral. “Most rheumatology diseases / disorders can be expertly evaluated and treated by primary care providers with specialty physician consultation as needed. “

INDICATIONS

“A rheumatology consultation or referral is necessary for disorders related to an uncertain diagnosis, disorders requiring complex therapies (eg, systemic lupus erythematosus), when the patient may have a rheumatologic disease but the specific diagnosis is uncertain, or the patient requires a specialty procedure (eg, orthopedic).

Particularly for hospitalized patients who have a complex constellation of findings, more than one subspecialist consultant may be necessary (eg; Infectious Disease, Rheumatology, or Surgery) “ / Apollo

Rheumatology primarily deals with joint problems, connective tissue disorders, inflammatory arthritis, spondyloarthropathies.

Other common reasons for referral will include: Knee Pain, Bunions, Gout, Fibromyalgia, Hip Pain, Osteoarthritis, Low back pain and other spine conditions, osteoporosis, neck and cervical spine conditions, shoulder pain and arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, certain causes of transient ischemic attacks and strokes, hypertension, peripheral artery disease, otitis externa, anemia, Lyme disease, vulvovaginitis, renal colic and kidney stones, hematuria, urethritis, epididymitis, crohns disease, ulcerative colitis, hepatitis infection, psoriasis, and urticaria and angioedema.

This list is not inclusive but contain many conditions that are related to a rheumatological disease.

RECOMMENDED RECORDS

Please submit relevant history and physical, progress notes, consult notes, and diagnostic testing – labs and radiology.

CITATIONS

- Product Medical Review Criteria Guidelines for Managing Care Service Category RMT - Rheumatology Apollo Guideline No. RMT 100 Guideline Title Consultations and Referrals: Rheumatology Edition 20th Edition, 8th Online Edition, 2021 Revision Date: 11-24-2020 Notes: Annual review; updates © 2018 Apollo Managed Care, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
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