



Early Inflammatory Arthritis (EIA) Clinic referral form

Use this cover sheet to refer a patient for specialist assessment and treatment if you suspect a new diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis

Referrer:

Practice address:

Tel:

Date of referral:

**Name of rheumatology
doctor case discussed with:**

Referral criteria (all 4 must be ticked to be eligible)

- ☐ Age >18
- ☐ Painful and/or swollen joints - Persistent synovitis of the small joints of the hands, feet or more than one large joint, for 4 weeks or more
- ☐ New onset arthritis (< 6 months)
- ☐ Positive Rheumatoid Factor (RF) and/or Anti-CCP, with levels >50

*If negative RF/CCP but recent elevation in ESR/CRP, please contact the on-call registrar to discuss referral.

Additional features (tick if applicable)

- ☐ Raised inflammatory markers (ESR/CRP)
- ☐ Family history of autoimmune disease
- ☐ Presence of extra-articular features (e.g. rash, painful red eyes, etc)

Calculated ACR/EULAR 2010 RA score = _____





Making the referral

Please contact the FSH Rheumatology Registrar via FSH Switchboard (ph 6152 2222) at the time of referral to discuss the case.

Patient details will be documented so the referral can be chased. After hours, please contact the on-call Rheumatology Consultant, also via Switchboard.

Fax this cover sheet **with additional clinical details and/or investigations** attached to **6152 9762** or email FSH.Referrals@health.wa.gov.au

Information for the referring practitioner

What is the Early Inflammatory Arthritis (EIA) Clinic?

This is a service established to streamline rapid outpatient Rheumatology assessment and management of patients with suspected new onset Rheumatoid Arthritis. Early diagnosis and treatment lead to better long-term clinical outcomes and a better quality of life for people with rheumatoid arthritis. Starting treatment within 3 months of the first symptoms appearing reduces the risk of joint damage and increases the likelihood that a person with rheumatoid arthritis will enter clinical remission. When there is high clinical suspicion of rheumatoid arthritis, access to a rheumatologist within 4 weeks of referral will reduce undue delays in the time to diagnosis and treatment.

When and where will my patient be seen?

Patients referred to the EIA clinic are seen by a rheumatology doctor within two weeks of referral. The clinic is based at FSH, Clinic 6 area. This clinic runs every fortnight on a Monday morning.

What if patients do not meet all essential criteria but a diagnosis of an inflammatory arthritis is still suspected?

All other patients who do not meet essential criteria will need to be referred via the usual CRS pathway. Examples: Suspected Spondyloarthritis, crystal arthritis, established rheumatoid arthritis on treatment.

Fiona Stanley Hospital

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Phone Helpdesk: 6152 2222

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