
Rheumatology Follow-up Service

Inflammatory arthritis can be a persistent and troublesome condition. It can have a big impact on your life, affecting your day-to-day activities and also your family and friends. Often the drug treatments for arthritis require careful monitoring to be used safely and effectively.

At Poole Hospital NHS Trust, people with Rheumatoid Arthritis and other similar conditions are seen in the **Rheumatology Follow-up (RFU) Clinics** that are run by **Rheumatology Practitioners**. The aim of the service is to provide support and care of the best standard for our patients.

Rheumatology Practitioners are specialist nurses and physiotherapists. They have been trained to a high level to look after every aspect of your arthritis. They work closely with the Consultant Rheumatologists, **Dr Paul Thompson and Dr Selwyn Richards**, and the other Rheumatology Physicians. The Rheumatology Practitioners are:

Tricia Cornell	Senior Rheumatology Practitioner
Anne Trehane	Rheumatology Practitioner
Sarah Wright	Rheumatology Practitioner
Sue Benjamin	Rheumatology Practitioner
Julia Taylor	Rheumatology Practitioner
Joy Christopher	Rheumatology Practitioner

When you come to clinic you will be seen by the Rheumatology Practitioner who will assess your arthritis and monitor your treatment.

The Rheumatology Practitioners are able to discuss and advise regarding many aspects of your arthritis. These include flare-ups of your arthritis, drugs, exercise, practical problems of day-to-day activities, ways to protect your joints, family problems, financial worries, work problems and social benefits. They can also order blood tests and X-rays, as well as refer you for help from physiotherapy, occupational therapy, appliances, podiatry (chiropody), social workers and social services. Please feel free to ask us any questions that you have.

Education and Groups

When you come to the RFU clinics the Rheumatology Practitioners will try to give you as much information as you would like about your arthritis and the treatments. We provide handouts on all the main drugs that are used and will also give you information about other aspects of the disease. Please feel that you can ask us about your arthritis. The more informed you are, the more easily you can manage your arthritis and get on with living your life.

Rheumatology Department Patient Information

We also run education groups for you and your family to explain about arthritis, the treatments involved and the important ways you can help in managing your arthritis. If you would like to come to one of these groups please ask us.

The Rheumatology Help-Line

Problems with arthritis do not occur just when you come to clinic! We run a telephone line called the Rheumatology Help-line as a way of providing more support for our patients. If you have problems with your arthritis or are worried about possible side-effects of your treatment, you can contact the Rheumatology practitioners on the number below. An answerphone will take your message if we are in clinic and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Contact Details

If you have any further questions or need advice about your treatment phone the Rheumatology Help Line on

01202 442849

www.poole.nhs.uk/our_services/rheumatology

For further health-related information, please contact:

The Health Information & Resource Centre

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Longfleet Road

Poole

BH15 2JB

Telephone: (01202) 448003

Rheumatology Practitioners

January 2008. Date of Review February 2010

Rheumatology Department, Poole Hospital NHS Trust

Dr. P. Thompson, Dr. S. Richards

We can supply this information in larger print, on audiotape, or have it translated for you. A member of staff will be happy to discuss this with you. Please call PALS on 01202 448499 or the Health Information Centre on 01202 448003 for further advice
