

Rheumatology Referrals

Reference Number: F4623
Date of Response: 14th June 2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

Royal Devon's Eastern FOI Office Response

1. On behalf of which Trust are you responding?

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Eastern Devon Services

Part 1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools

2. Does your trust have an internal referral pathway to rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

Yes

No

Not sure / don't know

b) Gastroenterology

Yes

No

Not sure / don't know

c) Ophthalmology

Yes

No

Not sure / don't know

3. Please give details of any standard internal pathways in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

There is a formal referral pathway from ophthalmology for suspected GCA cases. Otherwise, referrals can be sent to the department but there is no formal pathway

4. What referral protocols are in place? e.g. are patients referred back to the GP with consideration / instruction to refer onward for rheumatology opinion.

There are no referral protocols in place. Direct referrals from dermatology, gastroenterology and ophthalmology can be sent to the department and the same applies to other specialities within the trust.

5. Does your trust utilise any screening tools such as Dublin Uveitis Evaluation Tool (DUET) or Psoriasis Epidemiology Screening Tool (PEST):

- Yes**
 No
 Not sure / don't know

6. Please give details of any screening tools in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

On occasions, PEST has been used by Dermatology, but there is no formal pathway mandating its use. Rheumatology do not request DUET from Ophthalmology.

Part 2 – Internal referral volumes

7. Are you able to track internal referral volumes on your systems?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure / don't know

8. How often do you receive referrals for suspected axial SpA in rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

- Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Less often
 Never

b) Gastroenterology

- Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Less often
 Never

c) Ophthalmology

- Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Less often
 Never