

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7404

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Secondary Care Axial SpA referrals to Rheumatology.

You asked:

1. On behalf of which Trust are you responding?

Part 1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools

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

a) Dermatology

b) Gastroenterology

c) Ophthalmology

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

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.

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

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

Part 2 – Internal referral volumes

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

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

a) Dermatology

b) Gastroenterology

c) Ophthalmology

Trust response:

1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Part 1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools

2.

a) Dermatology

No

b) Gastroenterology

No

c) Ophthalmology

No

3. Other specialties will discuss cases adhoc or write a letter following clinic appointment.

4. Most are referred back to GP to refer into the most appropriate speciality.

5. No

6. Not applicable.

Part 2 – Internal referral volumes

7. No

8.

a) Dermatology

Less often

b) Gastroenterology

Less often

c) Ophthalmology

Less often