

RHEUMATOLOGY

National Clinical Priority Access Criteria (CPAC)

REHABILITATION

Category Definitions :

1. Semi - Urgent	- <i>within 12 weeks</i>
2. Routine	- <i>within 26 weeks</i>

Immediate and Urgent cases must be discussed with the Specialist or Registrar in order to get appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter sent with the patient, faxed or e-mailed. The times to assessment may vary depending on the size and staffing of the hospital department.

Category	Criteria	Examples (not an exhaustive list)
1. Semi - Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic arthritis with recent exacerbations threatening independence, unresponsive to outpatient treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established RA with recent flare. OA of major joints.
2. Routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musculoskeletal disability without threat of handicap. Chronic pain syndromes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cervical/lumbar spondylosis. Generalised OA NOS. Chronic low back trouble. Fibromyalgia syndrome.

Note: In general suitable patients for admission to a Rehabilitation programme will be those who will benefit from a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to education, self management techniques and physical therapy in addition to medical treatment. They will generally be those whose joints have been severely damaged by their arthritis.