

Rheumatology Referral Checklist

Thank you for entrusting Billings Clinic Rheumatology with the care of your patients. We make every effort to accommodate the rheumatology needs of central and eastern Montana, western North Dakota, and north-central Wyoming. To protect time for our established patients and optimize wait times for new patients trying to establish care, we have instituted a standardized referral review process to ensure appropriateness of all referrals. Please complete the checklist below prior to referring your patient.

Please note, rheumatology does **not** accept referrals for the following conditions:

- Fibromyalgia/Chronic Pain
- Joint Hypermobility Syndrome/Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS)
- Long Covid-19/Chronic Lyme/ Other post-infectious chronic illness
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic encephalomyelitis
- Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS)
- Mast Cell Activation Syndrome
- Erythromelalgia
- Primary Osteoarthritis
- We do not see patients younger than 18 years of age

----- Checklist -----

What is the indication for referral to rheumatology?

- Connective tissue disease
(i.e. systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjogren's disease, scleroderma, polymyositis/dermatomyositis/anti-synthetase syndrome)
- Inflammatory arthritis
(i.e. rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis)
- Vasculitis
(i.e. giant cell arteritis, ANCA vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa)
- Crystalline arthropathies
(i.e. gout, CPPD/pseudogout)
- Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR)
- Metabolic bone disease
(i.e. osteoporosis, Paget's disease)

- Other: _____

Referral Packet:

- Formal referral Letter
- Patient Facesheet
- Recent clinic note from referring provider
- Relevant diagnostic information (i.e. lab work, imaging reports, pathology reports)
- Prior rheumatology records (if applicable)

Once completed, please fax referral packet and completed Rheumatology Referral Checklist to (406) 435-1448.

Referring providers will receive a determination on the initial referral review within 7 days.

Please note, following initial referral review, additional information may be requested from the referring provider, or additional work-up may be recommended before final review of the referral.

If your referral is denied, you will be provided with an explanation. It is the responsibility of the referring provider to communicate referral denials to their patient. Billings Clinic Rheumatology will not mail referral denials to the patient, nor will they contact patients via other means regarding referral denials.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and the exceptional care you provide!