

Rheumatology Telephone Consultation

Information for patients

Please read this information leaflet as it contains important information about your rheumatology telephone consultation.

Before your telephone consultation:

Make a note of any:

- Medication(s) you are taking
- Concerns about medication(s) and/or your condition
- Questions you have for the clinician.

Many patients also find it beneficial to have a pen and paper ready to take notes during the telephone consultation.

If any of the following apply to you, you will need to be seen at a face-to-face appointment:

- You are having a current flare of your disease
- You feel that your condition has worsened since your last appointment
- You are having medication side effect(s)
- You are hard of hearing and struggle over the phone
- You would like somebody to attend with you
- You would feel more comfortable with a face-to-face appointment.

To change your appointment to a face-to-face consultation, please contact your consultant's secretary (you can find their telephone number on your clinic letter or by dialling the switchboard- telephone number below).

Please note, changing your appointment to face-to-face **will not change the date/time** of your scheduled appointment

During your telephone consultation:

If anything is unclear or if you are unsure of anything please do not hesitate to ask the Clinician to clarify.

Useful contacts

Rheumatology Nurse Helpline: **0131 537 1405**

- Your query will be recorded on an answering machine and returned between Monday and Friday by a Rheumatology Nurse Practitioner. This line is not for emergencies.

Osteoporosis helpline: **0131 537 2697**

Nurse Appointments: **0131 537 3677**

Appointments office: **01506 522 180**

Consultant's Secretary: **0131 537 1000** (the switchboard will transfer your call)

Further information can be found on our websites using the web address below or by scanning the QR code with the camera on your phone:

NHS Lothian:

<https://services.nhslothian.scot/Rheumatology>



EdRheum:

<http://www.edrheum.org/>