


How well are we caring for you?

The results of the National Clinical Audit for Rheumatoid and Early Inflammatory Arthritis


Poster designed by Sankkita Vivekananthan, 3rd year medical student

We looked into the care of newly diagnosed patients within the first 3 months of referral



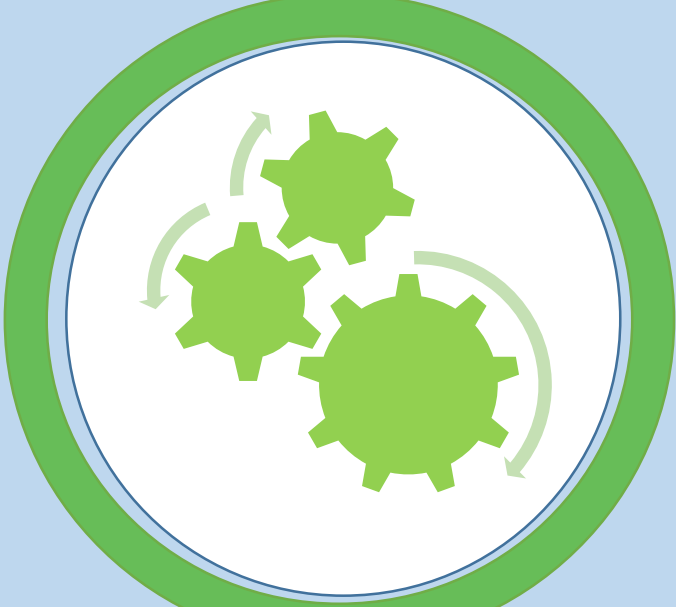
Why?

Rheumatoid arthritis should be treated early to minimise joint damage



Who?

97% of rheumatology services in England and Wales took part in the audit




What?

There were 7 standards of care that the audit focused on


The 7 Standards of Care
National results Vs LCFT results

Standard	National	LCFT
% patients referred to a rheumatologist within 3 days of seeing their GP	17%	38%
% patients seen within 3 weeks of referral by their GP	38%	28%
% patients that started treatment within 6 weeks of referral by their GP	53%	48%
% patients that received educational support within a month of diagnosis	59%	72%
% patients that were set a treatment target for their arthritis	91%	96%
% patients that received advice within 1 working day of contacting the rheumatology service	96%	100%
100 % of trusts nationally (including LCFT) reported that they have an annual review process in place	100%	100%


How We Aim To Improve




Educate GPs about inflammatory arthritis




Reduce waiting times



Educate patients about their drug management plan within 2 weeks






Set a treatment target at each appointment



More online resources and self-management classes

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust



If you want to find out more about the audit or access the full report please visit www.rheumatology.org.uk