Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Screening Clinic (MPSC)

Information for patients, carers and their families - Rheumatology

Your condition has been identified by the Rheumatology service as appropriate for assessment within MPSC. The MPSC works closely with the Departments of Orthopaedics and Rheumatology at the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. Advanced-scope physiotherapists work with doctors and other allied health clinicians in the assessment and management of these patients. The MPSC provides a screening assessment of your condition and its impact on you. Patients benefit from earlier assessment and co-ordinated care. Cases can be discussed with medical specialists to facilitate further tests, referrals or appropriate category upgrade.

An advanced-scope physiotherapist will perform a comprehensive assessment of your condition. This requires sufficient time, access to relevant background information and a thorough clinical examination.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ**

To assist us in completing this comprehensive assessment could you please:

- complete the enclosed questionnaires and bring them with you to your appointment—some may not appear relevant, but all must be completed
- arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time to register—if you are late you for your appointment you may not be seen on that day—allow up to 90 minutes for the appointment
- bring all relevant x-rays, scans or tests
- bring a list of your current medications
- wear appropriate clothing that can be removed or adjusted to allow the entire limb or area to be assessed.

Following the assessment, you will receive a clear management plan. You will be involved in planning and given advice to help you deal with your condition. This may include referral for services such as physiotherapy, dietetics, psychology or occupational therapy. You will be advised if you need further tests (like scans or blood tests) or specific exercises.

The physiotherapist may decide that a specialist opinion is required. This may occur in the form of discussion of your case with a rheumatologist, reinstatement to see a rheumatologist at the same category or a request to upgrade your referral for earlier rheumatological review. You will receive advice on what to do in the meantime. Importantly, your Rheumatology referral keeps the original referral date until a final decision regarding your management is made, so you will not ‘lose your place’.

Involvement of your referring General Practitioner (GP) is an important part of the success of this service. A letter is sent to your GP following your appointment. It outlines the major findings and the management plan.

MPSC helps reduce specialist waiting times, improve patient access to earlier, appropriate treatment and deliver very good clinical outcomes for patients. Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

For further information about the service and to confirm your appointment, please contact MPSC on (07) 5202 2233