

The Community Rheumatology Service

Your GP or health professional has requested an opinion about your symptoms. This leaflet provides you with information about how your care will be managed within the service.

What is the Community Rheumatology Service?

The Community Rheumatology Service forms part of a range of services provided through the Sussex MSK Partnership. It is a service provided by clinicians with specialist knowledge and skills in caring for patients with suspected or confirmed Rheumatology conditions.

How does the Community Rheumatology Service benefit patients?

You will be seen by an experienced, specialist clinician. You will be given time to discuss your symptoms and potential treatment options.

Where are the Community Rheumatology Service clinics located?

Clinics are based at the following locations:

Brighton and Hove

Horsham

Haywards Heath, Mid-sussex

How can the MSK team help?

You can contact your MSK Team for assistance with your referral, including:

- Queries regarding your referral or appointment.
- Information about clinic access, including details on transport links and parking arrangements and to request a map. All clinic sites have disability access.
- Questions about the information contained within this leaflet or about the service; or for advice about your care or treatment after your appointment, including test results.

Information about changing your appointment is detailed on your appointment letter. We aim to offer choice for all clinic appointments where possible.

What should I bring with me to my appointment?

Please bring information of any medications that you are currently taking to your appointment. This information will assist the clinician in their assessment and treatment. If you have had investigations in the past, such as MRI scans or X-Rays, at private or non-NHS organisations, please bring the report and scans with you to your appointment. If you have had a scan taken from an NHS hospital outside of Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals or Surrey & Sussex Healthcare NSH Trust, please contact your MSK Team in order for us to request the documents before your appointment.

**MSK Team for
Horsham/Crawley, Mid
Sussex and Brighton &
Hove**

Telephone Number:

0300 303 8063

Email:

here.rheum.smskp@nhs.net

What can I expect to happen in my appointment?

Your clinician will discuss your history and symptoms with you, review your condition and will explain any treatment options including the risks and benefits of treatment. You can bring someone with you to your appointment, or a chaperone can be provided on request by contacting the Rheumatology Service team before your appointment. Please inform your clinician, at any stage during your appointment, if you would like a chaperone to be present. Our service provides valuable teaching opportunities; this means that in some clinics medical students may be present. Your clinician will discuss this with you prior to your appointment. If you do not wish medical students to be present in your consultation please let the clinician know.

What will happen after my appointment?

You will agree a treatment plan with your clinician, which may include:

- Returning to the Community Rheumatology Service clinic for a follow up appointment.
- Attending for a diagnostic test.
- Discharge back to your GP and remain on active monitoring for 6 months. You can access the service for the same condition again during this period.
- Receiving advice on how to manage your condition.
- Sign posting to alternative services and community options.
- Referral on to a hospital or another health care provider of your choice if required.

What you can expect from our service?

Whenever you have contact with the Sussex MSK Partnership, you will be treated fairly, regardless of race, sexuality, disability, age, gender or religion. We will work with you and involve you in decisions about your care. We take the safety of all patients using our services seriously and are committed to ensuring that all patients feel safe.

Give us feedback

We aim to provide a high quality service and we would value your feedback. To send us a compliment, complaint, concern or suggestion please contact:

Sussex MSK Partnership,
4th Floor or 5th Floor, 177 Preston Road, Brighton, BN1 6AG.
Telephone: **0300 303 8063**. Email: here.brighton.smskp@nhs.net.

You can also contact Healthwatch, who can advise you about the NHS complaints process and where to get specialist advice of independent advocacy.

Brighton & Hove and Mid Sussex

<https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk>
Email: info@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk or telephone: **01273 234040**.

You can now follow us on

Twitter: HealthwatchBH

Facebook: www.facebook.com/healthwatchbrightonandhove

Crawley & Horsham

<https://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/>
Email: helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk or
0300 012 0122 (local rates) between the hours of 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday