|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of patient | GP |
| Date of Birth | GP Address and Phone number |
| Hospital number |
| Address |
| Telephone number | GP email address |
| Patient Email address | Date seen by GP |
| First Language | Date of referral |
| Interpreter needed? Y/N |  |
| Transport required? Y/N |  |

**Suspect early inflammatory arthritis in anyone who has persistent joint swelling, where no other cause is obvious, in more than one joint, for 6 weeks or more, and less than 1 year.** **EIA form is not for a flare of pain in established Rheumatoid or other inflammatory arthritis, worsening of symptoms in established osteoarthritis or fibromyalgia or for acute sciatica/mechanical back pain.**

Refer to Early Inflammatory Arthritis clinic **if symptoms present for more than 6 weeks and less than 1 year AND** any of the following criteria apply:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| **New symptoms for more than 6 weeks AND less than 1 year****AND** |  |  |
| Swollen small joints of the hands or feet |  |  |
| Stiff in the mornings for more than 30 minutes |  |  |
| Pain on squeezing knuckles or toes |  |  |
| More than one joint swollen |  |  |

**Recommended investigation to be ordered by GP prior/ at time of referral**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Normal  | Abnormal | Pending |
| FBC, U+E, LFT, bone profile, serum urate |  |  |  |
| CRP/ESR |  |  |  |
| Rheumatoid factor |  |  |  |
| Anti CCP |  |  |  |
| Anti nuclear antibody |  |  |  |
| X-ray hands, feet, chest |  |  |  |

Factors supporting a referral for early inflammatory arthritis clinic include

* Joint symptoms responding to NSAIDs
* Raised inflammatory markers
* Positive CCP or RF
* Joint stiffness following immobility
* Constitutional symptoms
* Extra articular features e.g psoriasis, iritis, uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease

Factors supporting referral to early arthritis clinic and relevant past medical history.

On referral, please request so that the result will be seen on Cerner Millennium

The diagnosis of EIA is not excluded by normal blood tests and x-rays.

Please do not prescribe steroids until the patient has been seen in clinic.