

14/09/2022

Dear Requester,

**FOI 1330**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

**Part 1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools**

1. Does your trust have an internal referral pathway to rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

Yes

b) Gastroenterology

Yes

c) Ophthalmology

Yes

2. Please give details of any standard internal pathways in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

Internal referral by standard letter or by Yellow Board if is very urgent

3. What referral protocols are in place? e.g. are patients referred back to the GP with consideration / instruction to refer onward for rheumatology opinion.

In cases requiring rheumatology input we prefer to refer our selves informing the GP about the action

4. Does your trust utilise any screening tools such as Dublin Uveitis Evaluation Tool (DUET) or Psoriasis Epidemiology Screening Tool (PEST):

No

5. Please give details of any screening tools in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

**Part 2 – Internal referral volumes**

6. Are you able to track internal referral volumes on your systems?

No

7. How often do you receive referrals for suspected axial SpA in rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

Never

b) Gastroenterology

Never

c) Ophthalmology

Quarterly

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: [dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk). This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust