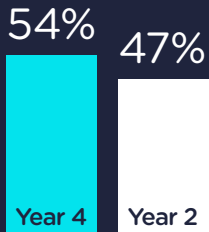# Key findings

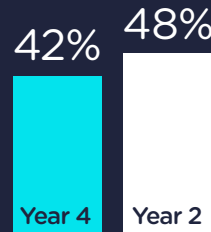**11,722**

Key finding 1 – 11,722 patients were recruited with suspected inflammatory arthritis (vs 13,578 in year two).
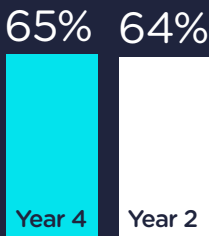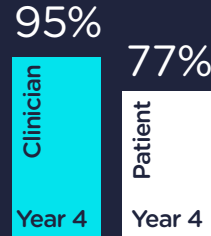
Quality statements

54% Year 4
47% Year 2

Key finding 2 – Speed of referral from primary care has improved with 54% of referrals meeting the three-day NICE target (vs 47% in year two).

42% Year 4
48% Year 2

Key finding 3 – First review by a specialist was achieved within three weeks of referral for 42% of patients (vs 48% in year two).

65% Year 4
64% Year 2

Key finding 4 – Conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (cDMARD) treatment delays remain stable with initiation within six weeks of referral in 65% of patients (vs 64% in year two).

95% Clinician Year 4
77% Patient Year 4

Key finding 5 – According to clinician-reported data, 95% (vs 94% in year two) of patients received disease education and self-management support; however, 77% (vs 81% in year two) of patients submitting patient reported outcomes data reported receiving disease education and self-management support.

90%

Key finding 6 – Most trust/health boards (90%) continue to engage with treat-to-target strategies (vs 89% in year two).
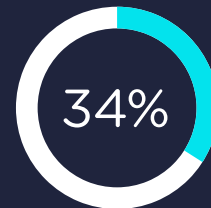
Key finding 7 – Whilst provision of telephone helplines for patients was still high (95%) (vs 92% in year two), only 51% of Trusts/Health Boards reported on the organisational form that they offer emergency access to rheumatology advice within 24 hours.

Year 4 | Year 2
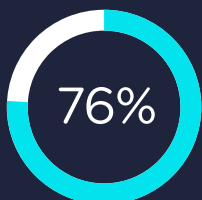95% | 92%

Three-month outcomes

Key finding 8 – Patient reported outcomes: Clinically meaningful improvements were recorded for all measures over the first three months of specialist care.

34%

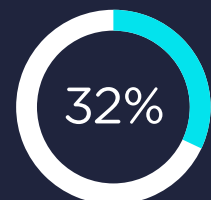**Key finding 9** – Disease remission was achieved in 34% of patients by three months after diagnosis (vs 37% in year two).

Early arthritis clinics

76%

Key finding 10 – Early arthritis clinics were available in 76% of departments (vs 77% in year two).

Key finding 11 – Access to relevant AHP services remain suboptimal.

axSpA 5-year symptom duration prior to diagnosis

32%

Key finding 12 – 32% of patients with axSpA had symptoms for over five years prior to assessment in comparison to 3% of patients with RA.