

Key findings

Recruitment



13,578

patients were recruited to the audit in year two



96%

of all NHS rheumatology services in England and Wales participated

Treatment



64%

of patients with a diagnosis of early inflammatory arthritis were prescribed a conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (cDMARD) within six weeks of referral



94%

of patients received disease-specific education as reported by clinicians



89%

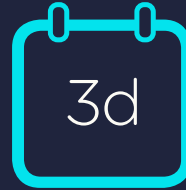
of patients had a treatment target set and agreed



92%

of patients were given access to a rheumatology specialist advice line

Time to first appointment



47%

of patients were referred within three working days



48%

of patients referred with suspected early inflammatory arthritis were seen within three weeks



16 days

average wait for the first appointment

Reported improvements by 12 months



52%

of people were in disease remission 12 months after diagnosis

49% to 25%

of patients who were depressed or anxious at first appointment and at 12 months

19% to 5%

reports of absenteeism at baseline and at 12 months

45% to 25%

reports of presenteeism at baseline and at 12 months