

## Table 4

### Summary of the NICE recommendations on the management of adult rheumatoid arthritis, relevant to primary care<sup>7,8</sup>

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- Refer to secondary care all patients with clinical synovitis of undetermined cause. Refer urgently (within three days of presentation) if the small joints of hands and feet are affected, more than one joint is affected, or there is a delay of three months or longer in seeking medical advice
- Investigation with rheumatoid factor, anti-CCP antibody and X-rays of the hands and feet is recommended in primary care, although negative results should not preclude the referral of a suspected case
- Short-term glucocorticoids as a bridging therapy is recommended on initiation of a synthetic DMARD