

When to refer to secondary care

- Age < 60 years
- Onset > 2 months
- Lack of shoulder involvement
- Non-inflammatory stiffness
- Prominent systemic features, especially night pain, fever, weight loss, neurological features
- Features of another rheumatological disease
- Normal or extremely high inflammatory markers
- Incomplete/poorly sustained/no response to steroids
- Contraindications to steroid therapy
- Inability to reduce steroids
- Need for > 2 years of steroid treatment

NB If in doubt about whether referral is required individual cases should be discussed with the local on call rheumatologist