

## CDI Clinical Designs - Cover Sheet\*

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*\*National Clinical Guidelines must use NCR cover sheet if being uploaded onto NCR. Otherwise this cover sheet applies*

**\*\* Refer to [HSE National Framework for developing Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines \(PPPGs\)](#)**

Version	Revision Date	List Section Numbers Changed	Author
1.0	2025	No Change	

# Model of Care for Rheumatology in Ireland

National Clinical Programme  
for Rheumatology

Key Points



RHEUMATOLOGY

# Rheumatology in Ireland



**1 in 4 Irish people are affected by  
rheumatic or musculoskeletal  
disorders**



**15,493 people on national  
rheumatology waiting list**



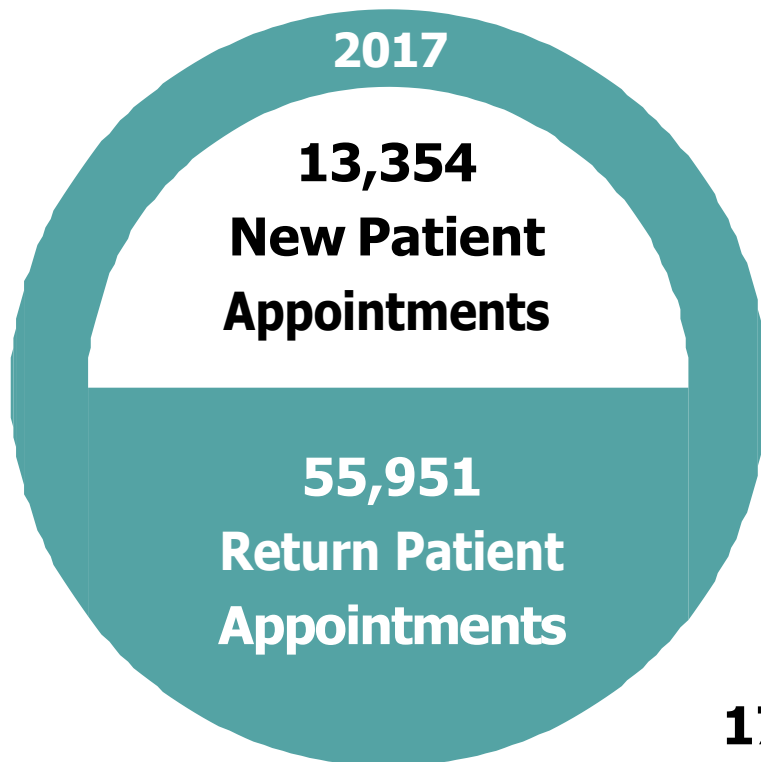
**Since January 2017,  
on average 74 people are  
added each month to the list  
of those waiting >12 months**



**Consultant Rheumatologists  
working in public hospitals**



**Increasing Spend on  
High-Tech Biologic Drugs**



**17,010  
New Patient**

**Referrals in 2017**

# New Model of Care

## Implementation Plan



**Expansion of MSK  
Physiotherapy Triage Initiative**



**23 Advanced Nurse  
Practitioners operating under  
consultant supervision**



**Provision of 1 Consultant  
Rheumatologist per 79,000**

**Delivery of a National  
Rheumatology Service**



**Development of  
integrated patient  
pathways  
providing greater  
level of access**



**Service improvements facilitated  
by novel gain share/invest to save  
approaches**

**Reduction in  
waiting lists**



**Expansion of Rheumatology  
services in a hub-and-spoke  
model operating within 6  
rheumatology networks**

**Patient seen by the right person,  
at the right place, at the right time**

# National Rheumatology Service Flow

