

# Rheumatology Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU)

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## What is Patient-Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU)?

Patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) puts you, the patient, in control of when you are seen by the rheumatology department. It means spending less time attending hospital appointments, but still having access to clinical support when you need it.

If your condition is stable, you may not find it helpful to attend regular outpatient appointments scheduled by the hospital. Sometimes, these appointments may not result in any change to your treatment, but you'll have spent time and energy putting arrangements in place to attend your appointment. Your condition may flare up in between regular booked appointments and it's at this point that you really do need our input. With PIFU, you can get advice from your clinical team, who may suggest an appointment is required.

You initiate the follow-up appointment, instead of the hospital. Which is why this process is called patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU).

PIFU is not a replacement for urgent medical advice. If you require urgent medical advice, you should contact your GP, NHS 111, your local walk

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