

This guideline is currently under review. In the interim, the guideline remains valid; if GPs have any specific concerns or questions, they should seek advice from the specialist with whom they have agreed to share care.

Shared Care Guidelines: Overview of Monitoring Requirements for DMARDs for Treatment of Rheumatological Conditions and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (guidelines ratified 2011)*

Drug	Condition	FBC	LFTs	U&Es, creatinine	CRP	Other
Azathioprine (and mercaptopurine for IBD)	-Inflammatory Bowel Disease -Rheumatology	-Every week for six weeks and then every two weeks until dose stable for six weeks; then monthly -If stable for six months, specialist may reduce frequency of monitoring (See guideline for monitoring after dose increase)			Every three months	-
Hydroxychloroquine	Rheumatology	Not required			Every three months	Visual acuity: patient to see optician annually
Leflunomide	Rheumatology	- Every two weeks for six months. Thereafter, monthly** - If stable for six months, specialist may reduce frequency of monitoring **If co-prescribed with another immunosuppressant or potentially hepatotoxic drug, continue monitoring once a month			Every three months	Weight and blood pressure: at each monitoring visit
Methotrexate	-Inflammatory Bowel Disease -Rheumatology	Every two weeks for three months, and monthly thereafter. (See guideline for monitoring after dose increases)			Every three months	-
Penicillamine	Rheumatology	- Every two weeks until dose stable for three months and then monthly - If renal impairment, monitor every two weeks throughout treatment (See guideline for monitoring after dose increases)			Every three months	Urinalysis: frequency as for FBC
Sodium aurothiomalate (Gold)	Rheumatology	Before each injection			Every three months	Urinalysis: frequency as for FBC
Sulfasalazine	-Inflammatory Bowel Disease -Rheumatology	Every two weeks for three months, then three monthly thereafter, then at discretion of specialist (See guideline for monitoring after dose increases)			Every three months	-

*Read in conjunction with shared care guidelines. Individual patient needs may vary.