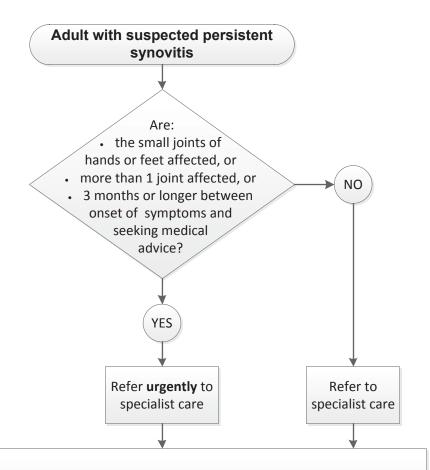
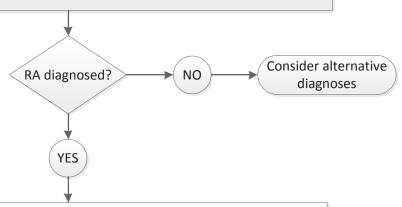
Rheumatoid arthritis: referral, diagnosis and investigations



Investigations

- Offer to carry out a blood test for rheumatoid factor.
- Consider measuring anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibodies in people who are negative for rheumatoid factor.
- X-ray the hands and feet.



As soon as possible (unless already measured to inform diagnosis):

- Measure anti-CCP antibodies.
- X-ray the hands and feet.
- Measure functional ability (e.g. using HAQ) to provide a baseline for assessing the functional response to treatment.

See summary of recommendations on management and monitoring

