

Axial SpA (AS) Referral Template Guidance

This template is designed as a tool to assist osteopaths and chiropractors in making appropriate onward referrals to secondary care where axial spondyloarthritis (axial SpA), including ankylosing spondylitis (AS), is suspected. The template has been developed by NASS in partnership with the Institute of Osteopathy and the Royal College of Chiropractors, and is endorsed by both the Royal College of General Practitioners and Chartered Society for Physiotherapy.

NASS is looking to monitor the success of the template by following the patient journey.

- If inflammatory back pain / axial spondyloarthritis is suspected, recommend onward referral to rheumatology
- Edit referral template and tick symptoms as appropriate, adding additional comments if needed
- Visit www.spadetool.co.uk and enter symptom and clinical features, printing off the result to support the referral
- Give your patient a copy of the referral letter and SPADE Tool result to take to their GP practice www.spadetool.co.uk
- Send a copy to the GP practice
- Ask the patient for their consent to share their details with NASS by completing the consent form. Explain that NASS will contact them to follow their journey through primary and secondary care, as well as their final diagnosis. Give a copy of the consent form to your patient
- Send a signed copy of the consent form and a copy of the referral letter to jill@nass.co.uk, keeping a copy of each for your own records