

Specialty Examination – Rheumatology

a. Specific findings

The examination should concentrate on the areas affected by the client's illness or impairment.

- (1) General Observations: Relate observations to common everyday functions which may be observed in the office. Stance, grasp or shake hands, ability to write.
- (2) Report on hand dominance.
- (3) Joint Examination: Describe any specific complaints.
 - (a) Specific, detailed notations with respect to presence or absence of effusion, periarticular swelling, tenderness, heat, redness, thickening of the joints.
 - (b) Describe any muscle spasm, atrophy, or joint deformity.
 - (c) Structural deformities.
 - (d) ROM restricted because of alleged pain or observable abnormalities.

b. Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies

Do not perform studies (i.e. x-ray or labs) unless they have been specifically authorized by the DDS in advance. This program emphasizes and evaluates based on function (not diagnosis and treatment).