### Rheumatoid Arthritis Assessment Use Case

The purpose of this use case is to describe the process for assessment of patient suspected of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) based on standardized RA assessment protocols leading to diagnosis (and management of the condition – Note: RA management is out of scope for this use case)

Use Case Sequence of Steps

1. A 56 yo female patient presents to General Practitioner/Primary Care Provider (GP/PCP) with complaints of arthritis signs and symptoms suggestive of rheumatoid arthritis.
2. GP/PCP conducts clinical observations (including examination of the patient, ordering of diagnostic tests) and collects clinical data, which include the following:
   1. Anthropometric data which include, but are not limited to, the patient’s date of birth (age), sex, height, weight, and body mass index (BMI). [**o**bjective]
   2. Medical history which includes, but not be limited to, medical and surgical problems, surgical procedures, medications [**o**bjective] and any allergies/intolerances [**s**ubjective/**o**bjective]; previous episode(s) of similar/same complaints.
   3. Family history of genetic relatives, especially history of auto-immune and rheumatic diseases.
   4. Clinical examination findings (observations):
3. *Constitutional features*: fever, rash, weight loss [**o**bjective], fatigue [**s**ubjective]
4. *Join pain*: three or more joints [**s**ubjective]
5. *Swelling and soft tissue involvements*: three or more joints [**o**bjective]
6. *Local erythema and warmth* [**o**bjective],
7. *Morning stiffness*: duration (>30min) [**s**bjective],
8. *Symmetric involvement of hands and feet*: (especially metacarpophalangeal and metatarsophalangeal joints [**o**bjective]
   1. Diagnostic tests: [**o**bjective]
9. *Laboratory*: C-Reactive Protein (CRP) or Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR); Rheumatoid Factor (RF); Antinuclear Antibody (ANA); dsDNA, C3, C4, immunoglobulins, HLA B27, joint aspirate (if infection or crystal arthropathy is suspected)
10. *Imaging*: X-ray/serial x-rays (Diagnostic erosions rarely seen in disease of <3 months duration)
11. A medical diagnosis may be identified. If the clinical findings from the clinical data obtained supports the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, the diagnosis will be entered into the patient’s medical record.

This process would be followed by recommendations/interventions, a care plan, other procedures, and/or a referral.

**The Clinical Assessment Process:**

The clinical assessment process involved targeted collection of pertinent clinical data, the reasoning process to come to an understanding of the patient’s health issues/problems, and to arrive at a clinical judgment and decision which include:

* A problem/diagnostic statement
* A management/care **p**lan for the identified problem/diagnosis (and any relevant co-morbidity), which may include goals/milestones, interventions (medical, surgical, patient education), recommendations to patient, outcome assessment, and/or referral