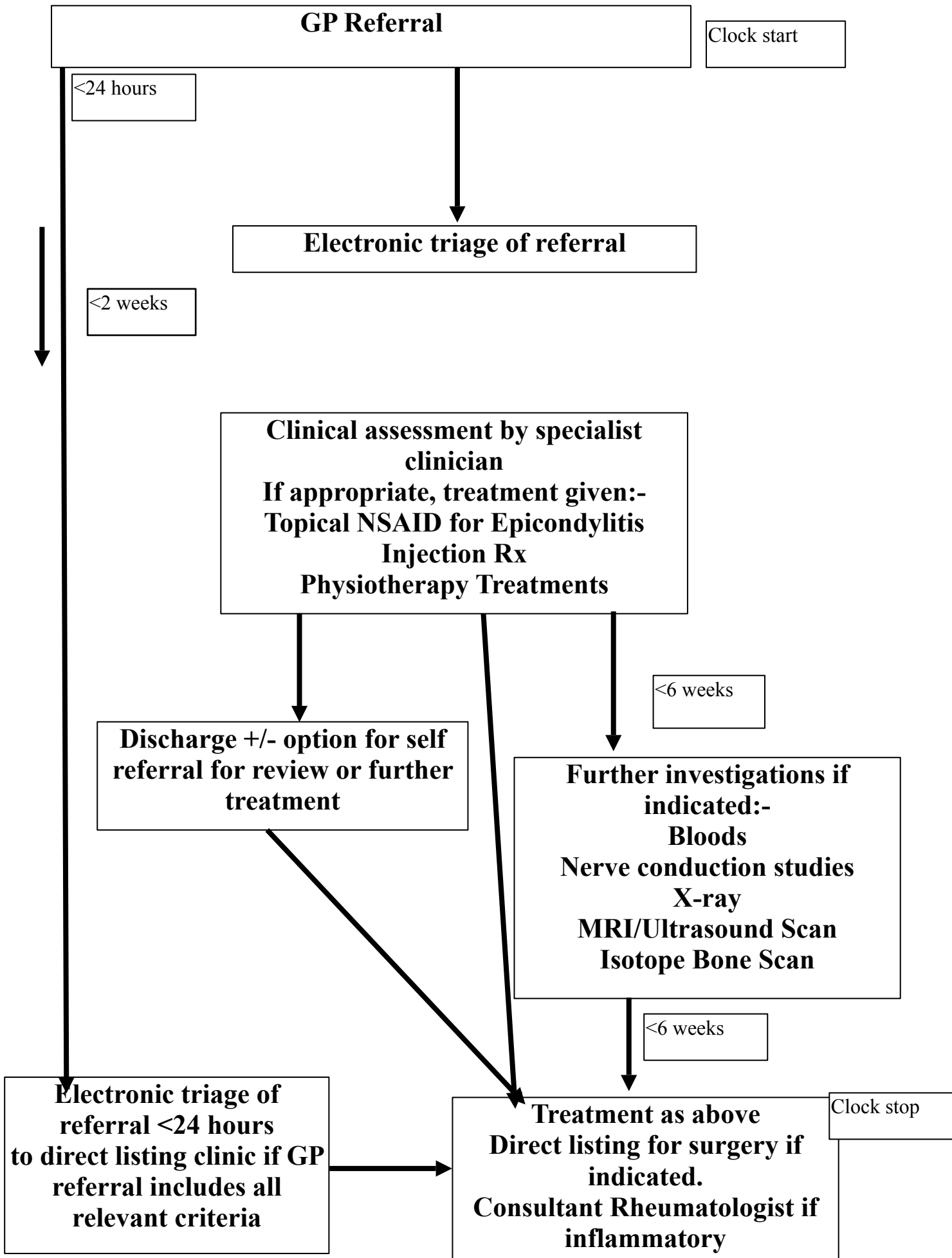


Generic Upper Limb Pathway



Brief Description of Service

The upper limb service is led by an Extended Scope Physiotherapist with input from the PMSK partners and other Extended Scope Physiotherapists. The service is accessible to all GPs in Oldham and provides rapid assessment and treatment for all musculoskeletal upper limb conditions. If operative intervention is indicated the service provides a facility to directly list patients which ensures delivery of the 18w RTT.

Inclusion Criteria

- Any patient over the age of 16.
- Patient registered with an Oldham GP
- Any musculoskeletal upper limb condition

Exclusion Criteria

- Any patient under 16
- Any patient who meets the criteria for referral under the 2 week cancer pathway
- Any patient whose mobility is so restricted that a two man ambulance is required

Pathway Description

- Referral from GP or Physiotherapist with prior agreement from GP
- Electronic triage of referral in <24 hours
- Patient invited to ring for appointment booking
- Patient sent appointment details, map and information leaflet
- Clinical assessment by specialist clinician in <4 weeks and treatment provided if indicated.
- **Treatment**
 - Lifestyle advice
 - Education
 - Topical NSAID therapy for epicondylitis
 - Injection therapy
 - Physiotherapy modalities
- Discharged, if appropriate
- **Investigations** (if indicated)
 - Pathology-full range of haematology, biochemistry, immunology, microbiology and microscopy
 - X-ray
 - MRI
 - Ultrasound
 - Isotope bone scan
 - Nerve conduction studies
- **Follow up**
 - Option for self referral for review or further treatment
 - Follow up subsequent to investigations will be for direct listing for surgery (see generic direct listing pathway) or for further opinion

References

- 1) 18 week commissioning pathways
- 2) ARMA overarching principles 2004
- 3) Care closer to home