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Title: Increasing Podiatry Referrals for Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis at a Tertiary Hospital in Singapore: A Quality Improvement Project

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Increasing Podiatry Referrals for Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis at a Tertiary Hospital in Singapore: A Quality Improvement Project

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HIGHLIGHTS / BRIEF SUMMARY

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN

- Inflammatory arthritis is a common cause of foot pain and deformity.
- Barriers preventing people with inflammatory arthritis from accessing podiatry services have been reported in previous studies from the UK, Australia and New Zealand.
- Improving access for people with inflammatory arthritis to podiatry services can ensure the prevention and timely management of inflammatory arthritis-related foot problems.

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

- A structured quality improvement program can successfully improve rates of referral to podiatry for people with inflammatory arthritis and foot pain.
- This study found that there was low uptake of podiatry services due to its poor integration into mainstream care for people with inflammatory arthritis.
- Quality improvement methods used in this study can be applied to other centers globally to attenuate the unmet need for podiatry in rheumatic conditions and the underuse of podiatry services.

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