

**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.

* 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.spade.co.uk](http://www.spade.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](http://www.spadetool.co.uk)
* Send a copy to the GP practice