

UAB Rheumatology Clinic

Patient Guide



UAB MEDICINE
RHEUMATOLOGY

Knowledge that will change your world

Welcome to the UAB Rheumatology Clinic

At the UAB Rheumatology Clinic, we are committed to the diagnosis and treatment of arthritis and rheumatic diseases. The types of arthritis we treat include rheumatoid, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic, and reactive arthritis. Our providers also treat connective tissue diseases associated with autoimmunity such as lupus, Sjogren's syndrome, scleroderma, dermatomyositis, polymyositis, vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels), and polymyalgia rheumatica. Our group also has expertise in managing osteoporosis, bursitis, and tendonitis.

Because fibromyalgia is not a form of joint or autoimmune disease, our rheumatologists do not provide ongoing management of this chronic disorder. However, since fibromyalgia can cause chronic joint and muscle pain and fatigue similar to rheumatic diseases, at times our providers may diagnose this condition and refer you back to your primary care physician for treatment.

Who We Are

Our group is comprised of board-certified rheumatologists, many of whom have been listed in the Best Doctors in America. Our practice also includes several certified nurse practitioners who are experienced in the assessment and management of common rheumatologic disorders and who assist faculty with the practice. Our Division has proudly served the needs of our patients for more than 40 years, and for the past 20 years it has consistently been ranked among the top rheumatology centers in the nation. Our practice locations include both the Rheumatology Clinic at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital and the Rheumatology Clinic at UAB Hospital-Highlands.

When not seeing patients in the clinic, our faculty members provide inpatient and consultative care at UAB Hospital, UAB Hospital-Highlands, and the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Our faculty members are also involved in advanced research aimed at improving the understanding of autoimmune diseases, their treatment, and outcomes, as well as helping train the next generation of physicians and rheumatologists.

Our multidisciplinary team is comprised of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, call center staff and front desk personnel all of which are working together to provide optimal care for each of our patients and to assist with questions and issues that may arise between visits.



Comprehensive, Convenient Care

We are proud to provide the personalized, compassionate, and quality care you deserve and expect. As part of our commitment to patient convenience, we have an arrangement with UAB Hospital to offer laboratory testing, radiology services, and infusion therapy services in close proximity to our office, and our Kirklin Clinic location offers musculoskeletal ultrasound services. We collaborate with various UAB Medicine specialists to treat skin, kidney, gastrointestinal, heart and lung problems associated with rheumatic diseases. We work closely with UAB's orthopedic, rehabilitation, physical therapy, weight loss, pain management, and psychology specialists to deliver comprehensive and collaborative care.

We have established a call center for the convenience of our patients. It operates Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm and may be used for prescription refills and non-emergent rheumatological issues that arise in between clinic visits. Please allow 48 hours for communications through our call center. The myUABMedicine patient portal may be used to check test results, send messages to your doctor, and view certain portions of your medical record. Please see the end of this brochure or inquire at your next appointment for instructions on how to access the patient portal.

To facilitate access to needed diagnostic tests and recommended treatment, we offer prior authorization services at no charge for the medications and radiology services ordered by our specialists when this is required. Appointments for infusion services provided at the UAB Hospital Infusion Center may be obtained by contacting the center directly at 205-502-9965. We are not able to provide prior authorizations for infusion services or imaging procedures performed outside of the UAB network or for medications not prescribed by UAB rheumatologists.



New Patients

We accept new patients who are referred by their primary care physician or other medical specialists. It is important that you bring your medication history, completed new patient forms, relevant medical records (including radiology and laboratory reports) to your first appointment. Once diagnosed, many forms of rheumatic diseases can subsequently be managed by internists or family physicians, orthopedists, or physiatrists (rehabilitation physicians), so it is also important to bring the names and contact information (phone, FAX numbers) of the other physicians/health care providers involved with your care. A record of your consultation and the treatment recommendations can be sent to the health care provider that referred you and to other health care providers with whom your care needs to be coordinated

Returning Patients

Be sure to bring a copy of your current medication list or your medication bottles. Your current medication list will be updated by our office staff during your visit.

To Schedule or Change an Appointment

If you need to schedule, cancel, or reschedule an appointment, please contact the scheduling office at (205) 996-7438 (205-996-Rheu) and choose option 1. If arriving more than 15 minutes late to an appointment, you may be asked to reschedule

myUABMedicine Patient Portal – myuabmedicine.org

myUABMedicine is a patient portal website that gives you secure access to portions of your medical record and offers a convenient way to communicate with your UAB health care providers. A myUABMedicine online account allows you to do the following:

- Communicate with your health care providers
- Request renewals for currently prescribed medications
- View results of select lab work or other tests
- View and/or download portions of your medical record
- View clinical visit summary
- View your active medication list, allergies, immunizations and more

If you are interested in creating a myUABMedicine patient portal account, please call (205) 996-6783, choose option 2, and confirm your email address.

Medication Refills

To obtain a refill of a medication prescribed by one of our doctors, please submit your request through the myUABMedicine patient portal or ask your pharmacy to fax a medication refill request to (205) 583-8060. If your pharmacy is unable to fax, please have them call us at (205) 996-7438 and choose option 2. Please allow 48 hours for refill requests to be approved and processed. Also, please understand that for some medications, refills will not be authorized if required lab tests for monitoring side effects have not been performed or if scheduled appointments have been missed.





Test Results

Please allow at least 2 weeks from the date tests were performed for results to be reviewed. Test results are reviewed on a daily basis; however, some test results may take longer than others. We will send you a report of your test results through the myUABMedicine patient portal or by mail, or we will call to let you know the results. We will inform you if other tests are needed or if medication changes are necessary.

Results of Tests Completed Outside The Kirklin Clinic

If you have test results from outside The Kirklin Clinic, please send them to us by fax at (205) 583-8060 so that they may be entered into your medical record, or mail them to:

The Kirklin Clinic
Rheumatology Clinic
2000 6th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233

For tests ordered by UAB Rheumatologists or NPs that are completed by labs or facilities outside of UAB/The Kirklin Clinic, it is best to notify us through the myUABMedicine patient portal or by leaving a message with the Rheumatology call center when these tests are done so that we can confirm receipt of the results and communicate them to you.

Prior Authorizations

Depending on your insurance carrier and the prescribed treatment, prior authorizations can take up to 4 weeks. For needed medication prior authorizations or Foundation Medication Assistance, please call (205) 996-7438 and choose option 2.

Disability and FMLA Forms

When requesting our providers to fill out FMLA paperwork, we will do our very best to complete and return these to our patients within 10 business days. For disability paperwork, because this usually requires an evaluation, we encourage patients to make an appointment to have the required evaluation and this type of documentation filled out during the visit or that patients have their PCP or a disability physician handle this request.

For Problems or Questions

Message us through the myUABMedicine patient portal or call the Rheumatology call center Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm at (205) 996-7438 and choose option 2. For problems after office hours or on weekends/holidays, please call the UAB paging operator at (205)-934-3411 and ask to speak with the Rheumatology fellow on call. Please note that the rheumatology fellow on call will not be able to address medication refills or non-urgent rheumatology issues.





UAB MEDICINE

RHEUMATOLOGY

Knowledge that will change your world