




Clinical Condition	Neuropathic Joints ( Charcot Joints)
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Associated medical condition ( usually Diabetes )</p> <p>Unilateral</p> <p>Classical feature – painless deformity</p> <p>Altered sensation ( may occur with any neuropathy)</p> <p>Early stage- Oedema, erythema, local warmth. Often mimics infection</p> <p>Late stage- deformities +/- ulcers</p> <p>May take up to 2 years for complete resolution</p>
<b>Clinical Photo</b>	
<b>Differential Diagnosis</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infection – cellulitis , osteomyelitis</li> <li>2. Inflammatory arthropathy</li> </ol>
<b>Information required with referral</b>	<p>History:</p> <p>Onset, progression, duration, severity, any initiating factors etc.</p> <p>Associated medical conditions</p> <p>Exact site of deformity</p> <p>Any other associate injuries</p> <p>Any treatment used ( immobilization , analgesics)</p>
<b>Investigation required for the diagnosis</b>	<p>Weight bearing ankle x rays, weight bearing foot x rays</p> <p>May show joint subluxation / dislocation +/- destruction</p> <p>Bone scan not useful ( often mimics infection)</p>
<b>Pre-Referral management strategies (information required with referral)</b>	<p>Non weight bearing</p> <p>Refer diabetic foot clinic</p>
<b>Referral Criteria</b>	<p>Continuous pain despite the non-operative management.</p>
<b>Fact sheets</b>	<p><a href="http://www.footeducation.com/diabetic-charcot-arthropathy">http://www.footeducation.com/diabetic-charcot-arthropathy</a></p>