

Co-ordinating Care: The role of the General Practitioner

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The GP has a unique role

- First in line – over the whole lifespan
 - Early detection of disease
 - Fast and correct referral if necessary
 - But often also a "gate-keeper"
- Co-ordinator
 - Specialized care
 - Other health professionals in Primary care
- Lifelong management
 - Co-morbidities
 - Side effects
 - Lifestyle change



Conclusion

- Although Primary Care is organized differently in Europe, there is still a possibility for the GP to take the role of co-ordinator of care for people with rheumatic diseases
- This includes co-ordination, not only between Primary care and Rheumatology, but also with other specialists
- There is also a need for co-ordination within Primary care to optimize the lifelong management of these diseases