

**Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) Questionnaire**  
**Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit**

Please ring Ms Sara Noonan on (08) 8263-7801 if you wish to discuss this questionnaire

**REPORTING CLINICIANS**

1. APSU Dr Code/Name:  / \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Month/Year of Report: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Date questionnaire completed: //

**PATIENT DETAILS**

4. First 2 letters of first name:  5. First 2 letters of surname:  6. Date of Birth: //  
7. Sex: M F 8. Post code of family:  9. Child's country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
10. Usual place of residence: Inner-city City Suburb Large town Small town/community Remote area  
11. Child's Ethnicity: ATSI Caucasian Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern African Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If this patient is primarily cared for by another physician who you believe will report the case, please complete the questionnaire details above this line and return to APSU. Please keep the patient's name and other details in your records. If no other report is received for this child we will contact you for information requested in the remainder of the questionnaire. The primary clinician caring for this child is:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructions: Please answer each question by ticking the appropriate box or writing your response in the space provided. DK= Don't Know, NA = Not applicable*

**Family details and relevant history**

12. Mother's country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ DK 13. Father's country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ DK  
14. Number of other children in the family (siblings): 0 1 2 3 4 5  >5 DK  
15. Number of siblings ever diagnosed with ARF: 0 1 2 3 4 5  >5 DK  
16. How many bedrooms are there in the child's dwelling? 1 2 3 4  >4 DK  
17. How many people usually sleep in the child's dwelling? 1-4 5-9  >9 DK  
18. How many of these people are children aged <15yrs 1-4 5-9  >9 DK  
19. Does the child have a primary health provider? Yes No DK

**If yes: 19a.** Who is the child's usual primary health provider? GP Local hospital Aboriginal Health Worker  
Flying Doctor Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) diagnosis**

20. Date of diagnosis for current ARF episode: //  
21. Has this child been previously diagnosed with ARF? Yes No DK  
**21a.** Please provide months/years for previous diagnoses: / / /  
22. Please select all diagnostic criteria present in the current episode of ARF?  
MAJOR criteria: Carditis Polyarthritis Sydenham's Chorea  
Erythema marginatum Subcutaneous nodules  
Polyarthralgia (high risk groups) Aseptic mono-arthritis (high risk groups)  
MINOR criteria: Fever (highest temp \_\_\_\_\_ °C) ESR ≥30mm/hr (highest ESR \_\_\_\_\_ mm/hr)  
Prolonged PR interval CRP ≥30mg/L (highest CRP \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L)  
Aseptic mono-arthritis (low risk groups) Polyarthralgia (low risk groups)

23. If any of the arthritic features were present, which joints were involved? (tick all that apply)  
Wrist(s) Ankle(s) Knee(s) Elbow(s)  
Other joints. (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

24. Were any cardiac valve lesions present? Yes No DK **If No, please go to question 27.**

**If yes: (tick all that apply)**

- 24a. Mitral valve regurgitation: Severity: None Mild Moderate Severe DK  
24b. Mitral stenosis DK  
24c. Aortic valve regurgitation: Severity: None Mild Moderate Severe DK  
24d. Aortic stenosis DK  
24e. Tricuspid valve lesion (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ DK  
24f. Pulmonary valve lesion (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ DK

25. Evidence of valve lesions is based on Echocardiogram Clinical Assessment

**If echocardiogram, please de-identify and attach the echocardiogram report to this questionnaire if available.**

26. Is the echocardiogram report attached? Yes No NA

27. Was there evidence of heart failure? Yes No DK  
 28. Was there a sore throat (within 3 weeks of ARF symptoms)? Yes No DK  
**If yes: 28a.** Was medical attention sought for the sore throat? Yes No DK  
 29. Was there evidence of skin sores (within 3 weeks of ARF symptoms)? Yes No DK  
 30. Was there evidence of Group A streptococcal (GAS) infection? Yes No DK

**If yes, please provide the following details:**

- Culture: Yes No DK **If yes, identify site (throat, skin, other)** \_\_\_\_\_  
ASOT titre Result \_\_\_\_\_ Date /  
Anti DNase titre Result \_\_\_\_\_ Date /

31. Were antibiotics given within the 3 weeks prior to onset of ARF symptoms? Yes No DK

**If yes, 31a.** Which antibiotic was used? \_\_\_\_\_ DK

### ARF management and outcome

32. Which treatments were given during the acute phase of this episode of ARF? (*tick all that apply*)

- No treatment given Prednisolone Carbamazepine  
Paracetamol Frusemide Valproic acid  
Aspirin Digoxin Penicillin  
Codeine Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

33. Was bed rest recommended? Yes No DK

**If Yes: 33a.** How many days of bed rest did the child have? \_\_\_\_\_

34. Was secondary prophylaxis initiated following this diagnosis? Yes No DK

35. Which secondary prophylaxis regimen(s) was prescribed following this episode of ARF?

- Benzathine penicillin G (3-weekly) Penicillin V 250mg (bd)  
Benzathine penicillin G (4-weekly) Erythromycin 250mg (bd) DK  
Benzathine penicillin G (every calendar month)

36. If this is an ARF recurrence, what do you believe is the primary cause?

- Secondary prophylaxis was not given, *due to*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary prophylaxis given but failed, *due to*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other reason (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_ DK

37. Was cardiac surgery recommended? Yes No DK

**If No or DK, go to question 38**

**If yes: 37a.** If yes, has surgery been performed? Yes No Awaiting surgery DK

**37b.** If yes, describe procedure: \_\_\_\_\_

**37c.** Date of surgery: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **37d.** Name of surgical unit/hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

### Barriers to diagnosis

38. Did you encounter any barriers to making the diagnosis of ARF for this episode in this child? Yes No DK

**If Yes, please answer 39 and 40. If No, Thank you, this is the end of the questionnaire**

39. Delayed presentation to a health professional? Yes No DK

**If yes: 39a.** Time between onset of symptoms and presentation to health professional \_\_\_\_\_ days.

**39b.** Describe reasons for delayed presentation: eg. (Lack of access to primary health services):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

40. Delayed referral following initial presentation? Yes No DK

**If yes: 40a.** Time from initial presentation \_\_\_\_\_ days or \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

**40b.** Describe reasons for delayed referral / other barriers to diagnosis? (eg. difficulty with ARF diagnosis – unclear presentation; lack of staff skills) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this questionnaire in the addressed reply-paid envelope to**

**Ms Sara Noonan C/- 8 Denham Drive VALLEY VIEW SA 5093**

*Thank you for your assistance with this study, which has been approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee. The APSU is a Unit of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Division of Paediatrics and Child Health) and is funded by the NHMRC (Enabling Grant No. 40284), the Department of Health and Ageing, and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney.*