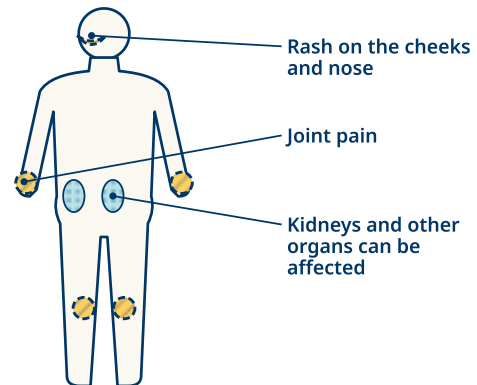


Lupus (SLE)

What it is

Lupus is a disease where the immune system attacks healthy parts of the body. It can affect the joints, skin, kidneys and other organs. Symptoms often come and go.



Common symptoms

- Joint pain and swelling
- Fatigue and fever
- A rash, including a butterfly-shaped rash across the cheeks and nose
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Mouth sores, hair loss

Self-care tips

- Protect your skin from the sun with clothing, a hat and sunscreen.
- Take your medicines exactly as prescribed. Do not stop them on your own.
- Keep all lab and follow-up visits.
- Stay active with gentle exercise, and rest during flares.

What to expect at GSMC

First visit: A rheumatologist reviews your symptoms, history and medicines, and examines your joints and skin.

Tests: Blood tests and imaging, as needed, help confirm the diagnosis.

Follow-up: Regular visits and lab checks help us adjust treatment over time.

When to call us

- Swelling in the legs, or chest pain when you breathe deeply
- A flare that does not settle with your usual plan
- Fever or signs of infection while on your medicines
- New symptoms, such as a rash, chest pain or leg swelling

Call 911 for chest pain, trouble breathing, or signs of a stroke.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/services/rheumatology/conditions/lupus/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.