

# Rheumatoid Arthritis

## LSCMMG Recommended High Cost Drugs Pathway

### Lines of Treatment

A patient will be allowed to receive **up to four lines** of treatment. A **'line' of treatment is completed when a drug is administered and a patient shows secondary nonresponse** after an initial response period, using NICE criteria for RA

### Initiation Criteria

- Disease is severe i.e. DAS28 >5.1
- Disease has not responded to treatment with at least two conventional DMARDs

### Choice of Drug

- Treatment to be initiated at each line of treatment with the most cost effective, clinically appropriate drug (taking into account administration costs, required dose and product price per dose)
- If primary inefficacy then to select a drug with a different mechanism of action.

### Continuation Criteria

- Continue treatment only where there is at least a moderate response after 6 months using EULAR criteria i.e. improvement of DAS28  $\geq$  1.2 points

**Tapering of certain drugs** may be considered after discussion with patient if clinically appropriate. For example, if the patient has a persistent DAS28 score of  $\leq$  2.6 (for at least 6 months or longer) following treatment for  $\geq$  1 year and no swollen joints once steroids have been tapered and stopped.

### Criteria for Discontinuing Drug but Remaining at Current Line of Therapy

- Lack of improvement of clinical signs and symptoms after 3 months for certolizumab or 6 months for all other drugs.
- Drug withdrawn because of adverse event or intolerance.

### Criteria for Discontinuing Drug and Switching to Next Line of Therapy

- After initial response within 6 months, withdraw treatment if a moderate EULAR response is not maintained

## LSCMMG Approved High Cost Drugs

Drugs listed in the boxes to the right all have positive NICE Technology Appraisal assessments. Drugs with the letter **G** following their name are available as biosimilars which offer cost savings when compared to drugs only available as branded originator products.

### TNF inhibitor

Etanercept **G**  
 Adalimumab **G**  
 Certolizumab peg  
 Infliximab **G** + MTX  
 Golimumab + MTX

### T Cell

Abatacept + MTX

### IL6

Tocilizumab  
 Sarilumab

### B Cell

Rituximab **G**

### JAK inhibitor

Baricitinib, Tofacatinib,  
 Upadacitinib