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 moderate (**only drugs with asterisk** - DAS28 ≥ 3.2 – 5.1) or severe (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 >1.2 points in severe disease and >0.6 points in moderate disease.

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 ≤ 2.6 (for at least 6 months or longer) following treatment for ≥ 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- Drug withdrawn because of adverse event or intolerance.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. All drugs listed are approved for use in severe RA. Only those marked * are also approved for use in moderate RA.

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 – see MHRA Alert
Baricitinib
Tofacatinib
Upadacitinib*****
Filgotinib*****