

October 2017

Position statement for using biologic therapies to treat adult patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)

The High Cost Drugs Subgroup discussed the above at its meeting on 25th October 2017. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:

<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Adults with JIA should not be inappropriately re-categorised as having rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis or another condition.</p> <p>Treatment with biologic therapies in adults with JIA is recommended only if used in line with NHS England guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Commissioned treatments include; infliximab etanercept, abatacept, tocilizumab and adalimumab. •Rituximab is recommended specifically after failure or intolerance to a TNF inhibitor in rheumatoid factor (RF) +ve patients. •Anakinra is available for use in line with the NHS England for the treatment of systemic JIA in children. •Choice of treatment should be based on the JIA subtype and the product licence. <p>•An alternative biologic should be used for patients who do not achieve or fail to maintain good control. Due to the lack of randomised controlled trials for sequential use of biologics in JIA, the choice of agent should be based on clinical/patient factors and should follow the NHS England flow diagram in Appendix A.</p> <p>Individual funding requests are required for any treatments outside of the NHS England pathway or where a patient requires treatment with more than 4 biologics (including those used while the patient was under the care of children/adolescent services).</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>JIA is the umbrella term used to characterize all types of inflammatory arthritis that arise without known cause before the 16th birthday. It is not confined to childhood, with about 50% of patients continuing to have episodes of active inflammation during their adult years.</p> <p>NICE has issued two relevant TAs: NICE TA373: Abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab for treating juvenile idiopathic arthritis recommends the use of these biologic agents and the corresponding biosimilars in children, young people and adults.</p>

	<p>NICE TA238: Tocilizumab for the treatment of systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis makes recommendation of the treatment of children and young people aged two years and over but not adults.</p> <p>There is also an NHS England policy relating to the use of Biologics for JIA.</p> <p>Although CCGs are the responsible commissioner for biologics in adults with JIA, treatment has not always been routinely commissioned; instead clinicians have tended to reclassify adult JIA patients as having rheumatoid arthritis or another inflammatory condition and they are treated according to agreed pathways for those indications.</p> <p>In 2011 the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) and the British Society of Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology (BSPAR) issued a consensus statement regarding management of adults with JIA. This highlighted that optimal management of adults with JIA may be different from adults with rheumatoid arthritis. It further states that adults with JIA should not be reclassified as rheumatoid arthritis or other condition.</p>
Efficacy and Safety	<p>GMMM is adopting an NHS England policy which was developed with consideration of the clinical condition and the options for its treatment. All of the commissioned treatments are licenced for use in JIA subtypes as indicated within the policy</p>
Cost Effectiveness/ Affordability	<p>Historically adult patients with JIA requiring treatment with biologics have been classified as having rheumatoid arthritis or another inflammatory condition and treated in line with agreed pathways for those indications. Alternatively funding will have been sought via an individual funding request.</p> <p>It is therefore anticipated that this will not have a significant cost impact.</p>
Monitoring	<p>Where Blueteq has been introduced to the trust as part of the contractual arrangements, a form should be completed and on-going funding approval will be made by meeting the criteria outlined on completion and submission of a Blueteq form.</p>
Patient perspective	<p>This position aims to ease the transition of patients from paediatric to adult services.</p>

References available on request