

Quick reference guide

Tocilizumab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

Guidance

- 1 Tocilizumab, in combination with methotrexate, is recommended for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis in people whose rheumatoid arthritis has responded inadequately to one or more tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) inhibitors **and**:
 - whose rheumatoid arthritis has responded inadequately to rituximab **or**
 - in whom rituximab is contraindicated or when rituximab is withdrawn because of an adverse effect.
- 2 People who are currently receiving tocilizumab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and whose circumstances do not meet the criteria described in section 1 should have the option to continue treatment until they and their clinicians consider it appropriate to stop.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA198).

- Costing template and report to estimate the national and local savings and costs associated with implementation.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA198

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- ‘Understanding NICE guidance’ – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or ‘Understanding NICE guidance’, phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote:

- N2276 (quick reference guide)
- N2277 (‘Understanding NICE guidance’).

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see www.nice.org.uk

Published

- Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, rituximab and abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after the failure of a TNF inhibitor. NICE technology appraisal guidance 195 (2010). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA195
- Certolizumab pegol for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE technology appraisal guidance 186 (2010). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA186
- Rheumatoid arthritis: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults. NICE clinical guideline 79 (2009). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG79
- Adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE technology appraisal guidance 130 (2007). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA130

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in June 2013. Information about the progress of a review will be available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA198

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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