

Quick reference guide

Abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

Guidance

- 1 Abatacept is not recommended (within its marketing authorisation) for the treatment of people with rheumatoid arthritis.
- 2 Patients currently receiving abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis should have the option to continue therapy until they and their clinicians consider it appropriate to stop.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA141).

- Audit support for monitoring local practice.
- A costing statement explaining the resource impact of this guidance.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/TA141

- A quick reference guide (this document) – a summary of recommendations for healthcare professionals.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – information for patients and carers.
- The full 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:

- N1561 (quick reference guide)
- N1562 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

Related NICE guidance

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

Published

- Adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (including a review of technology appraisal guidance 36). NICE technology appraisal guidance 130 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA130
- Rituximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE technology appraisal guidance 126 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA126
- Anakinra for rheumatoid arthritis. NICE technology appraisal guidance 72 (2003). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA072

Under development

- Adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after failure of a different TNF- α inhibitor. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected September 2008).
- Rheumatoid arthritis: the management and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults. NICE clinical guideline (publication expected February 2009).
- Certolizumab pegol for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected November 2009).

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in July 2010. Information about the progress of a review will be posted on the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk/TA141)

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, 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. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in 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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