Southend University Hospital NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

August 2011

In order to understand current changing trends in treatment of rheumatoid diseases, please could you supply the following information?

1. Does your trust have guidelines or a protocol or for the usage of biologics (e.g. Adalimumab, Certolizumab, Etanercept, Infliximab, Golimumab, Rituximab, Tocilizumab etc) in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis?

If yes, please could you send an electronic copy of the protocol [or link to it] or indicate the position of drug treatments within the protocol, e.g. first choice is "drug A", second choice is "drug B" etc

The Trust is compliant with the guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The relevant Technical Appraisal Guidelines are as follows:

NICE reference	Date issued	Title of guidance
TA027	Jul-01	Osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis - cox II inhibitors
TA130	Oct-07	Rheumatoid arthritis - adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab
TA186	Feb-10	Rheumatoid arthritis - certolizumab pegol
TA195	Aug-10	Rheumatoid arthritis - drugs for treatment after failure of a TNF inhibitor
TA198	Aug-10	Rheumatoid arthritis - tocilizumab
TA224	May-11	Rheumatoid arthritis (methotrexate-naïve) - golimumab (terminated appraisal)
TA225	May-11	Rheumatoid arthritis (after the failure of previous anti-rheumatic drugs) - golimumab
TA234	Aug-11	Rheumatoid arthritis - abatacept (2nd line)

2. Does your trust have guidelines or a protocol or for the usage of biologics in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis?

If yes, please could you send an electronic copy of the protocol [or link to it] or indicate the position of drug treatments within the protocol, e.g. first choice is "drug A", second choice is "drug B" etc

The Trust is compliant with the guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The relevant Technical Appraisal Guidelines are as follows:

NICE reference	Date ssued	Title of guidance
TA199	Aug-10	Psoriatic arthritis - etanercept, infliximab and adalimumab
TA220	Apr-11	Psoriatic arthritis - golimumab

3. Does your trust have guidelines or a protocol or for the usage of biologics in the treatment ankylosing spondylitis?

If yes, please could you send an electronic copy of the protocol [or link to it] or indicate the position of drug treatments within the protocol, e.g. first choice is "drug A", second choice is "drug B" etc

The Trust is compliant with the guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The relevant Technical Appraisal Guidelines are as follows:

NICE reference	Date issued	Title of guidance
TA143	May-08	Ankylosing spondylitis - adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab
TA233	Aug-11	Ankylosing spondylitis - golimumab

NICE guidelines can be viewed on their website at www.nice.org.uk

4. How many patients are currently receiving disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), such as Methotrexate, Sulfasalazine, Leflunomide, Azathioprine, Penicillamine, Injectable Gold for the following conditions (total figure is sufficient, please use this table if convenient)

Condition	*Total Patients Receiving DMARDs*
Rheumatoid arthritis	
Psoriatic arthritis	
Ankylosing spondylitis	

If unable to split by disease, please just supply a total rheumatology figure.

We can confirm that the Trust does hold the information regarding modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). However, in this instance the cost of retrieval exceeds the cost limit as the information is not held in one filing system and they are not structured or indexed in such a way that the information can be retrieved without a manual search. The information you requested is held in individual prescription charts which are maintained in separate case notes in paper format across various centres within the Trust. The Trust would only be able to provide you with the information you requested by examining every individual case note and then extracting the required information. Although the primary record is paper based, some information is instead held electronically and would therefore need to be cross referenced to the paper record.

Accordingly, the associated cost would exceed the fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007 which for NHS Trust's is calculated on the basis of the cost of one person spending 2½ working days locating, retrieving and extracting this information at a rate of £25 per hour.

Having regard to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act in circumstances where the fee limit is likely to be exceeded, the Trust is not obliged to respond to the request. Accordingly, we are sorry but on this occasion we will not be processing this part of your request further.