

BEDFORDSHIRE, LUTON AND MILTON KEYNES AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE (APC)

Treatments for the management of Ankylosing Spondylitis and Non-radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis (nrAxial SpA) AFTER failure of conventional treatment (in line with NICE TAs and local APC guidance)

(Includes biologics and Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors)

(Updated November 2023)

(Previous versions – Approved by the BLMK APC September 2021, September 2022; March 2023 Approved by the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) March 2018)

Prescribing notes:

- Prescribe by **brand name** (due to availability of biosimilars*).
- Where possible, prescribe the least expensive agent (take into account individual patient factors e.g. presence of comorbidities, extra-articular manifestations, and administration costs, dosage, price per dose and commercial arrangements). Note – biosimilars* are cost-effective treatment choices.
- Infliximab[#] is recommended only if treatment is started with the least expensive infliximab product.
- When using BASDAI and spinal pain VAS scores, take into account any physical, sensory or learning disabilities, or communication difficulties that could affect the responses to the questionnaires, and make any adjustments they consider appropriate.
- Clinicians should refer to the SmPCs for each individual drug for full prescribing information, noting ▼ black triangle status where applicable – [click here](#)
- **TNF inhibitors** should be avoided in patients with any of the following co-morbidities:-
- (Δ Specific patient population) **Proven malignancy in last 10 years; malignant melanoma at any point; MS; Bronchiectasis; Pulmonary Fibrosis; SLE; Congestive heart failure (NYHA Class III / IV).**
- **JAK inhibitors**[∞] –The MHRA have issued a drug safety update (DSU) bulletin (April 2023) detailing new measures to reduce risks of major cardiovascular events, malignancy, venous thromboembolism, serious infections and increased mortality with JAK inhibitors. See [MHRA advice](#) on measures to consider before considering prescribing a JAK inhibitor.

The following organisations contribute to and participate in the BLMK APC – Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board; Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust; Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust; East London NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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