This HMMC recommendation is based upon the evidence available at the time of publication. The recommendation will be reviewed upon request in the light of new evidence becoming available.
NICE Recommendation:

Tocilizumab IN COMBINATION WITH METHOTREXATE is recommended AS AN OPTION for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults if:

- the disease has responded inadequately to DMARDs and it is used as described for TNF inhibitor treatments in TA130; specifically the recommendations on disease activity and choice of treatment or
- the disease has responded inadequately to DMARDs and a TNF inhibitor and the person cannot receive rituximab because of a contraindication to rituximab, or because rituximab is withdrawn because of an adverse event, and tocilizumab is used as described for TNF inhibitor treatments in TA195, specifically the recommendations on disease activity or
- the disease has responded inadequately to one or more TNF inhibitor treatments and to rituximab AND
- the manufacturer provides tocilizumab with the discount agreed as part of the patient access scheme.

NICE recommendation in TA130 on choice of treatment:

‘Treatment should normally be initiated with the least expensive drug (taking into account administration costs, required dose and product price per dose). This may need to be varied in individual cases due to differences in the mode of administration and treatment schedules.’

The evidence for subcutaneous tocilizumab was not available at the time that NICE considered tocilizumab and therefore this has been reviewed separately by HMMC and is the subject of a local agreement.


Produced by Hertfordshire Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team
Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Luton Commissioning Support
NHS Central Eastern Commissioning Support Unit

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