

# Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment Guidance for Biologic Drugs

## Conditions for initiating a Biologic

### Medication

- DAS28 >5.1
- DMARD trials
- Intolerance or lack of response to intensive combination DMARD therapy
  - Methotrexate + additional DMARD
  - Treated for 6 months +
- The most cost effective drug must be used first

## Funding

Must be applied for via Blueteq for all Shropshire or T+W patients

- Initial funding is for 6 months only
- Continuation funding requires a reduction in DAS28 > 1.2 this provides continuous approval until the drug is ineffective / not tolerated

## Sequencing

- **1<sup>st</sup> line**
  - Adalimumab biosimilar ( If patient is genuinely needle phobic Baricitinib or Tofacitinib are acceptable 1<sup>st</sup> line alternatives)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> line**
  - **EITHER** Rituximab biosimilar
  - **OR** Baricitinib **OR** Tofacitinib
  - **OR** Abatacept **OR** Etanercept
  - **OR** alternative TNF $\alpha$  (except Golimumab)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Line ONWARDS**
  - **EITHER** any of the above
  - **OR** Sarilumab **OR** Tocilizumab
  - **OR** Golimumab

## Special Populations

**Heart Failure** – Use all biologics with caution. Symptomatic treatment may be more suitable

**Patients with anaemia, raised ESR and high disease activity** – desirable to use IL6 1<sup>st</sup> line. See relevant Blueteq form.

**Obese patients** – consider Golimumab – higher dosing available for those over 100kg

Target	Drug	Licensed for Monotherapy	Included in NICE guidance	Comments / Conditions
TNF $\alpha$	Adalimumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375 TA195	Can be given weekly when used as monotherapy. Separate funding application required
	Etanercept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375 TA195	
	Certolizumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375 TA195	
	Golimumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375 TA195	With Methotrexate ONLY
B cell	Rituximab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA195	2 <sup>nd</sup> line post anti TNF only / must be with MTX / 4xs infusion = 75%
T cell	Abatacept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375 TA195	With Methotrexate ONLY
IL6	Sarilumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA485	
	Tocilizumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA375	
JAK inhibitor	Baricitinib	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA466	Dose reduction if >75yo Dose reduction CrCL 30ml to 60ml/min Not recommended CrCL <30ml/min
	Tofacitinib	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA480	