

# Assessing variation in Axial Spondyloarthritis Services

## Freedom of Information Request - 014804

May 2019

### Recognition and Referral

1. Does your Trust have a specified pathway from primary care to secondary care for inflammatory back pain in place?

*Please select one of the following response options*

- Yes
- **No**

*If you answered 'yes', please give details below of the pathway and, if applicable, arrangements in place to raise awareness in primary care*

*t*

*her of the above response options apply to you, please provide more information on your local arrangements below*

Suspected cases of inflammatory back pain are referred via choose and book and are prioritised into a 'suspected inflammatory arthritis' slot.

### Diagnosis in specialist care settings

2. What is the average current waiting time to diagnosis for a patient referred with inflammatory back pain?

*Please select one of the following response options*

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Less than 1 month	
1 – 2 months	✓
2 – 3 months	
3 – 4 months	
4 – 5 months	
5 – 6 months	
6 – 12 months	
More than 12 months	

3. Are patients with suspected axial SpA (AS) routinely referred for a full spinal MRI?

*Please select one of the following response options*

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	✓
No	

*If neither of the above response options apply to you, please provide more information on your local arrangements below*

**Information and Support**

Referral for a whole spine MRI is requested if non-radiographic axial SpA is suspected. This is identified through clinical examination/presentation at first outpatient appointment. Currently we do not routinely keep data pertaining to how many patients are referred for this examination

4. How do you ensure patients are given information and support following their diagnosis?  
**Please select whichever response options apply**

Option	Please tick here (tick all that apply)
Written information	✓
Verbal information	✓
Access to a helpline	✓
Named contact in the team	
Group educational sessions	
Other (please provide details)	<b>Referral to physiotherapy</b>

**Pharmacological management of axial SpA (AS)**

5. What guidance are patients with axial SpA (AS) given when deciding whether to access biologic treatment?

**Please provide details of arrangements in your local area below**

B

The process of eligibility to access biological treatment is discussed with the patient where and when appropriate.

If patients have any queries they can contact the CNS helpline on 01384 244798

Bearing in mind the NICE anti TNF guidance for ankylosing spondylitis (TA383) states that, 'Treatment with another anti TNF is recommended for people who cannot tolerate, or whose disease has not responded to, treatment with the first TNF-alpha inhibitor, or whose disease has stopped responding after an initial response', after failure with one biologic, how many other biologics will your commissioners fund a patient with axial SpA (AS) to try, including IL 17As?

**Please select one of the following response options**

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
None	
1	
2	
3 or more	✓

**If none of the above response options apply to you, please provide more information on your local arrangements below**

**Non-pharmacological management of axial SpA**

6. What proportion of adults with axial SpA (AS) are referred to a specialist physiotherapist for a structured exercise programme within your local area when first diagnosed?

**Please provide details below**

95% are referred to physiotherapy

**Flare management**

7. What percentage of patients with axial SpA (AS) have a written care plan to support them with a flare?

**P**

**L**

Patients are provided with care information and for exacerbations there is a patient help line where patients will be triaged and an appropriate management agreed.

**S**

**e provide details below**

**Organisation of care**

8. Does the Trust have a dedicated axial SpA (AS) clinic?

**Please select one of the following response options**

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**If neither of the above response options apply to you, please provide more information on your local arrangements below**

**Mental health and well being**

9. Are axial SpA (AS) patients under the care of a rheumatologist offered access to psychological services?

**Please select one of the following response options**

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>if and when appropriate, not as a routine</b>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

***/***

If and when appropriate, referral to our Rheumatology based Health Psychologist is made

***ticked 'yes', please specify the services on offer***