

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5464

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Ankylosing Spondylitis.

You asked:

Recognition and Referral

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

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

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

Diagnosis in specialist care settings

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

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

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

Information and Support

4. How do you ensure patients are given information and support following their diagnosis?

Pharmacological management of axial SpA (AS)

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

6. 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?

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

7. 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?

Flare management

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

Organisation of care

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

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

Mental health and well being

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

If you ticked 'yes', please specify the services on offer

Trust response:

Recognition and Referral

1.

No

Diagnosis in specialist care settings

2.

Less than 1 month x

3.

Yes x

Information and Support

4.

Other (please provide details)

Website – NASS and arthritis research UK

Pharmacological management of axial SpA (AS)

5. Website – NASS and arthritis research UK and discussion with rheumatology nurses

6. Website – NASS and arthritis research UK and discussion with rheumatology nurses

3 or more x

Non-pharmacological management of axial SpA

7.

10%- most have tried physio prior to review

Flare management

8. Copy of clinic letter thus 100%

Organisation of care

9.

Yes x

Mental health and well being

10.

No x