

*Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group*

## Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

**Policy No. 268a (TVPC46)      Sequential use of biologic therapy in Psoriatic Arthritis**

**Recommendation made by  
the Priorities Committee:      July 2016; Updated January 2019<sup>1</sup>**

**Agreed by OCCG                      9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Date of issue:                          October 2016, June 2019**

Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness and NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (TAG) for the sequential use of biologic therapies in Psoriatic Arthritis. The Committee supports the use of biologics as per NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup>. NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance does not make recommendations around the sequential use of biologics.

As per NICE guidance, if more than one tumour necrosis factor-alpha antagonists (anti-TNF) treatment is suitable, the least expensive should be chosen (taking into account tariff and price per dose plus individual patient factors)<sup>2</sup>. Where appropriate, a biosimilar product should be used in preference to the originator brand.

Where there is inadequate response to biologic treatment or the biologic drug cannot be tolerated or becomes contraindicated, and prescribing is in line with NICE TAGs, use of up to three NICE approved biologic agents will be funded (including treatment with ustekinumab).

Sequential use of a fourth and subsequent biologic therapy is **not normally funded**.

Note that this policy will also apply to all biologic therapies recommended by NICE TAGs for psoriatic arthritis that are published post January 2019.

<sup>1</sup> New NICE TAGs and wording on biosimilar products and future NICE TAGs have been added and the flowcharts removed; no further changes have been made.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta199>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta220>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA340>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta537>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta445>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA543>

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>
- Oxfordshire CCG's clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/policies.htm>