

Assessing variation in Axial Spondyloarthritis Services

Freedom of Information Request

May 2019

Recognition and Referral

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

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does hold the information requested.

Please select one of the following response options

- Yes

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

Urgent referral to the rheumatology hot joints clinic at Solihull.

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

Rheumatology on call or ERS referral.

Diagnosis in specialist care settings

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

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does not hold the information requested.

The CCG does not receive this data.

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?

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does hold the information requested.

Please select one of the following response options

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	

No	No, the clinically indicated sites would be imaged.
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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?
NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does not hold this information.
 Please contact the service provider University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust for this information using the following email address; foi.uhb@uhb.nhs.uk

Please select whichever response options apply

Option	Please tick here (multiple responses if applicable)
Written information	
Verbal information	
Access to a helpline	
Named contact in the team	
Group educational sessions	
Other (please provide details below)	

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

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?

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does hold the information requested.

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

The CCG have not met policy on number of therapies.

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?

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does not hold the information requested.

Please provide details below

The CCG does not receive this data.

Flare management

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

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does not hold the information requested.

The CCG does not receive this data.

Organisation of care

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

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does hold the information requested.

Please select one of the following response options

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	
No	General Rheumatology at Birmingham Heartlands, Solihull and Good Hope hospital sites within University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

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?

NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG does hold the information requested.

Please select one of the following response options

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	There is a psychologist available.
No	

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

For any further information on the contents of this Freedom of Information request, could you please contact foi@nass.co.uk.