



**PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE**  
**PRESCRIBING POLICY STATEMENT**  
REF: PS134 FINAL  
FIRST APC BOARD DATE: 24 SEP 2014  
LAST APC BOARD DATE: 24 MAY 2017



**Pan Mersey**  
Area Prescribing Committee

## RITUXIMAB infusion in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

**RED**

**The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of rituximab infusion for rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with NICE TA195 and in accordance with the Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway. Treatment should be initiated and supervised by a rheumatologist.**

[NICE TA195](#) recommends rituximab, in combination with methotrexate, as a treatment option for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to, or have an intolerance of, two or more other disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), including at least one TNF inhibitor.

The [Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#) recommends rituximab can be used in the above circumstances as monotherapy or with a non-methotrexate DMARD in patients who cannot have methotrexate.

**Note:** Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. If appropriate an exceptional funding request will be required following the usual locally defined process.