



**PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE  
PRESCRIBING POLICY STATEMENT  
REF: PS66 FINAL  
FIRST APC BOARD DATE: 28 MAY 2014  
LAST APC BOARD DATE: 28 MAR 2018**



**Pan Mersey**  
Area Prescribing Committee

**INFLIXIMAB infusion (including biosimilars)  
in rheumatological conditions**

**RED**

**The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of infliximab infusion for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis and adult-onset Still's disease, as well as in patients fitting other criteria commissioned by Pan Mersey CCGs, as listed below.**

**Rheumatoid arthritis (RA):** The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee (APC) recommends prescribing infliximab infusion for rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with [NICE TA195](#) (August 2010), [NICE TA375](#) (January 2016), and in accordance with the [Pan Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#). NICE TA375 recommends infliximab with methotrexate, as a treatment option for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis (DAS28>5.1) who have had an inadequate response to intensive therapy with a combination of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). TA195 recommends infliximab, in combination with methotrexate, as a treatment option for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to two or more DMARDs or have an intolerance of, other DMARDs, including at least one TNF inhibitor, and who cannot receive rituximab therapy because they have a contraindication to rituximab, or when rituximab is withdrawn because of an adverse event. The Pan Mersey RA Biologics Pathway recommends infliximab as an option in patients fitting NICE criteria who have not responded adequately to rituximab, and recommends use with non-methotrexate DMARDs as an option in patients who cannot have methotrexate.

**Psoriatic arthritis (PsA):** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing infliximab infusion for psoriatic arthritis in accordance with [NICE TA199](#) (August 2010), and in accordance with the [Pan Mersey Psoriatic Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#). NICE TA199 recommends infliximab as an option in psoriatic arthritis of defined severity not responding to two or more DMARDs. The Pan Mersey PsA Biologics Pathway recommends alternative biologic treatment if initial biologic treatment fails.

**Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (NRASpA):** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing infliximab infusion for AS and NRASpA in accordance with [NICE TA383](#) (February 2016) and [Pan Mersey AS and Axial SpA pathway](#). Infliximab is recommended only if treatment is started with the least expensive infliximab product.

**Adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD):** The Pan Mersey APC recommends infliximab as an option for treating AOSD within the [criteria](#) commissioned by Pan Mersey CCGs.

**Planned conception in patients with active inflammatory arthritis:** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing infliximab infusion for male and female patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, active spondyloarthritis or adult-onset Still's disease as an option in accordance with the [criteria](#) commissioned by Pan Mersey CCGs for patients wishing to conceive.

Infliximab should be prescribed by brand name.

**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.

**This recommendation has been designated suitable for inclusion on the Pan Mersey APC static list and so will only be reviewed if significant new evidence becomes available**

**Version: 4.0  
STATIC**