Pan Mersey
Area Prescribing Committee

UPADACITINIB prolonged-release tablets (RINVOQ® ▼) for treating severe rheumatoid arthritis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of UPADACITINIB prolonged-release tablets (RINVOQ® ▼), by specialists only, for treating severe rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with NICE TA665.

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NICE technology appraisal (TA) 665[1](09 December 2020) recommends upadacitinib (RINVOQ® ▼), with methotrexate, as an option for treating active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in adults whose disease has responded inadequately to intensive therapy with a combination of conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), only if:

- disease is severe (a disease activity score [DAS28] of more than 5.1) **and**
- the company provides upadacitinib according to the commercial arrangement.

Upadacitinib, with methotrexate, is recommended as an option for treating active RA in adults whose disease has responded inadequately to or who cannot have other DMARDs, including at least 1 biological DMARD, only if:

- disease is severe (a DAS28 of more than 5.1) **and**
- they cannot have rituximab **and**
- the company provides upadacitinib according to the commercial arrangement.

Upadacitinib, with methotrexate, is recommended as an option for treating active RA in adults whose disease has responded inadequately to rituximab and at least 1 biological DMARD, only if:

- disease is severe (a DAS28 of more than 5.1) **and**
- the company provides upadacitinib according to the commercial arrangement.

Upadacitinib can be used as monotherapy for people who cannot take methotrexate because it is contraindicated or because of intolerance, when the above criteria are met.

Continue treatment only if there is a moderate response measured using European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) criteria at 6 months after starting therapy. After an initial response within 6 months, stop treatment if at least a moderate EULAR response is not maintained.

Prescribing and monitoring of therapy must be retained by a specialist in the management of RA.

NICE do not expect this guidance to have a significant impact on resources; that is, less than £9,000 per 100,000 population. Upadacitinib is a further treatment option available at a similar price to current treatment options.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Technology Appraisal 665; Upadacitinib for treating severe rheumatoid arthritis, 09 December 2020. Accessed 17 December 2020

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement 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. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.