**Freedom of Information Request**

**May 2019**

**Assessing variation in Axial Spondyloarthritis Services**

**About you**

**Recognition and Referral**

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

***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***

All orthopaedic GP referrals to be referred via Musculoskeletal Clinical assessment and treatment service (MCAS)/Joint Health.

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

All GP Orthopaedic referrals triaged via the Musculoskeletal Clinical assessment and treatment service (MCAS/RheuCAS) /Joint Health. Referrals assessed, treated and/or onward referred were appropriate.

**Diagnosis in specialist care settings**

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

***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 |  |

1. Are patients with suspected axial SpA (AS) routinely referred for a full spinal MRI?

***Please select one of the following response options***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Option** | **Please tick here (one option only)** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

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

**Information and Support**

1. How do you ensure patients are given information and support following their diagnosis?

***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)**

1. 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***

1. 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?

***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***

**Non-pharmacological management of axial SpA**

1. 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?

***Please provide details below***

**Flare management**

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

***Please provide details below***

**Organisation of care**

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

***Please select one of the following response options***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Option** | **Please tick here (one option only)** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

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

**Mental health and well being**

1. Are axial SpA (AS) patients under the care of a rheumatologist offered access to psychological services?

***Please select one of the following response options***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Option** | **Please tick here (one option only)** |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

***If you ticked ‘yes’, please specify the services on offer***

For question 2-10 NHS Southport and Formby CCG does not hold this information, you may wish to refer your query to -

Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

[soh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.foi@nhs.net)