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PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE
PRESCRIBING POLICY STATEMENT
REF: PS133 FINAL
FIRST APC BOARD DATE: 8 MAY 2013
LAST APC BOARD DATE: 28 MAR 2018



Pan Mersey

Area Prescribing Committee

Abatacept infusion and subcutaneous injection (Orencia®) in rheumatological conditions

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The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of abatacept infusion and subcutaneous injection (Orencia®) for rheumatoid arthritis and infusion for polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis as described below.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA): The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee (APC) recommends abatacept, in combination with methotrexate, as a treatment option for treating severe active rheumatoid arthritis (DAS28>5.1) in adults whose disease has not responded to intensive therapy with a combination of conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), **and** the manufacturer provides abatacept with the discount agreed in the patient access scheme, in accordance with [NICE TA375](#) (January 2016).

The Pan Mersey APC recommends abatacept, in combination with methotrexate, as a treatment option in adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to, or have an intolerance of, two or more 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and who cannot receive rituximab therapy because they have a contraindication to rituximab, or when rituximab is withdrawn because of an adverse event, in accordance with [NICE TA195](#) (August 2010).

The [Pan Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#) recommends abatacept as an option for patients with rheumatoid arthritis fitting NICE criteria who are at increased risk of infection, either in combination with methotrexate or as monotherapy or with non-methotrexate DMARDs in patients unsuitable for methotrexate, including in patients who have not responded adequately to rituximab as defined within NICE guidance.

Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA): The Pan Mersey APC recommends abatacept as an option for treating polyarticular JIA, in accordance with [NICE TA373](#) (December 2015). Further details are contained in the Pan Mersey statement on [Biologic agents in management of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis](#)

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.