



**PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE**  
**PRESCRIBING POLICY STATEMENT**  
 REF: PS63 FINAL  
 FIRST APC BOARD DATE: 28 MAY 2014  
 LAST APC BOARD DATE: 28 MAR 2018



**Pan Mersey**  
 Area Prescribing Committee

## CERTOLIZUMAB injection (Cimzia®) in rheumatological conditions

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**The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of certolizumab injection (Cimzia®) for rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis, 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 certolizumab injection for rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with [NICE TA375](#) (January 2016), and in accordance with the [Pan Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#). NICE TA375 recommends certolizumab with methotrexate or as monotherapy, 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) only with the discount agreed in the patient access scheme (PAS). [NICE TA415](#) (October 2016) and the Pan Mersey RA Biologics Pathway recommend certolizumab, in combination with methotrexate or as monotherapy, as a treatment option for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response or an intolerance of DMARDs, including at least one TNF inhibitor, and who cannot receive rituximab therapy because they have a contraindication to rituximab or to methotrexate, or when rituximab is withdrawn because of an adverse event. The Pan Mersey RA biologics pathway recommends certolizumab 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.

**Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (NRAxSpA):** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing certolizumab injection for AS and NRAxSpA in accordance with [NICE TA383](#) (February 2016) and [Pan Mersey AS and Axial SpA pathway](#).

**Psoriatic arthritis (PsA):** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing certolizumab injection for PsA in accordance with the criteria in [NICE TA445](#) (May 2017), and in accordance with the [Pan Mersey Psoriatic Arthritis Biologics Pathway](#). The Pan Mersey PsA Biologics Pathway recommends certolizumab as an option in psoriatic arthritis of defined severity not responding to two or more DMARDs and as an alternative biologic treatment if initial biologic treatment fails.

**Planned conception in patients with active inflammatory arthritis:** The Pan Mersey APC recommends prescribing certolizumab injection for male and female patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis or active spondyloarthritis as an option in accordance with the [criteria](#) commissioned by Pan Mersey CCGs for patients wishing to conceive.

**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.