**Assessing variation in Axial Spondyloarthritis Services**

**Freedom of Information Request**

**May 2019**

**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
* No

***If you answered ‘yes’, please give details below of the pathway and, if applicable, arrangements in place to raise awareness in primary care***

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

There is no specific pathway for inflammatory back pain, referrals are sent to the Musculoskeletal (MSK) service commissioned from our main adult acute services provider Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT).

**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 | Please contact STHFT for this information – [foi@sth.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@sth.nhs.uk). |
| 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***

Please contact STHFT for this information.

**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 | Please contact STHFT for this 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***

Please contact STHFT for this information.

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 | Please contact STHFT for this information. |
| 1 |
| 2 |
| 3 or more |

***If none of the above response options apply to you, please provide more information on your local arrangements below***

N/A

**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***

Please contact STHFT for this information.

**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***

Please contact STHFT for this information.

**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***

Please contact STHFT for this information.

**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** | Not a specified pathway through IAPT long term condition health and wellbeing services |

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

Please refer to the provider, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Psychology Therapies, who may themselves provide psychological services for people with AS.

For any further information on the contents of this Freedom of Information request, could you please contact [email redacted]