

ABMUHB Biologic DMARD Pathway for Rheumatoid arthritis in patients **NOT** on methotrexate

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To be read in conjunction with ABMUHB guidance on biologic DMARD use in RA.

* An alternative first-line biologic DMARD may be chosen in specific patient circumstances, the reason for choosing an alternative must be documented in the patient record.

Consider dose tapering the biologic in patients in persistent remission.

Sequential use of up to 4 biologics in non-responders is permissible within this pathway, beyond this approval of Clinical lead required.

For patients able to tolerate methotrexate please follow the separate specific treatment pathway.

Prescribe drugs available as biosimilar by brand (e.g. Benepali for etanercept, Inflectra for infliximab, Truxima for rituximab).

In primary non-responders consider a biologic with different mechanism of action.

In secondary nonresponders to anti-TNF, consider less immunogenic option (e.g. Benepali).

