

## Collaborative Working Project

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and  
AbbVie Ltd

### Outcome Summary

This is an outcome summary outlining Collaborative Working between University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and AbbVie Ltd, focused on improving patient outcomes and standards of care in the rheumatology service by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare services.

The purpose of the collaboration was to impact on the following specific outcomes:

- Optimisation of patient pathways, ensuring patients get seen by the right clinician at the right time in the right place.
- The development of specialist clinics for patients with spondyloarthritis.
- Ensuring all healthcare professionals involved in patient care are given the opportunity to expand their skills and competencies into advanced practice.

Within the project the key objectives are:

- Understand the patient journey from initial referral into specialist services.
- Identify medical education needs of the multidisciplinary team and offer comprehensive medical education.
- Facilitate development of specialist clinics.
- Identify actions that may overcome barriers and bottlenecks identified through understanding the patient journey within the service.
- Measure outcomes of agreed interventions to overcome identified barriers.
- If appropriate and agreed by both parties, support with the publication of resulting data collected during the project.

Key outcomes and highlights of the project are

- Improved patient access to specialist services, measured by reduced waiting times for new and routine appointments.
- Standardised pathways.
- Enhanced uptake of patient-initiated follow up (PIFU), aligned with NHS Long Term Plan.
- Enhanced patient satisfaction and empowering patients to access specialist services when needed.
- Improved service capacity as indicated by reduced referral times for new and routine appointments.
- Better co-ordination of patient care and multidisciplinary teamwork leading to cross functional working between specialties.
- Enhanced and streamlined specialist service provision.
- Addressed educational needs of the multidisciplinary team, enhancing patient care.
- Initiation or optimisation of specialist care/clinics where necessary.
- Publication:
  - Kennedy, N et al; **Improving Standards of Care for Axial Spondyloarthritis Through Project CATALYST: Experience From Two UK Centres**, Musculoskeletal Care, Feb 2025