

Redesign, Development and Implementation of Early Arthritis and associated pathways Joint Working Project between Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and AbbVie Ltd

Executive Summary

This is an executive summary outlining Joint Working between Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and AbbVie Ltd, focussed on delivering better healthcare outcomes for rheumatology patients in Leeds by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare services.

We are undertaking this joint working project work ***to support the re-design of the rheumatology service at Leeds in order to improve clinical pathways and remove blockages that currently affect clinic capacity focussing specifically on the Early Arthritis Clinic and the pathways that are associated with it. A more efficient service will improve patient experience and outcomes by ensuring that patients are treated with appropriate treatment options sooner in line with NICE guidance.***

The purpose of this joint working project will be to improve the service in order to provide a more timely, equitable and consistent level of care which adheres to NICE guidelines for patients.

In undertaking this work the project team would aim to impact on the following specific outcomes:

- **Understand the current situation**
- **Optimise/Redesign service and output**
- **Evaluation of optimised service**

Within the project the key objectives are:

- Review and evaluate the current service and the patient Journey to gather quantitative and qualitative information to be used to identify areas of opportunity and best practice which can be used to validate/optimize the service for both patients and healthcare professional stakeholders.
- A co-created patient centric solution to evaluate the patient experience will be produced and the project innovations will be used to measure real world improvement impact focussed on outcomes, through the evaluation of re-designed services and the development and implementation of the new pathway. There will be a detailed engagement and communication plan to ensure all service users, carers and HCPs are fully aware of the redesigned service and pathways to ensure that implementation is successful and a mechanism will be developed to measure the impact of the redesigned service and pathways associated with it.
- The report will serve as a stand-alone deliverable and written to enable the findings to be shared more widely, either by AbbVie, or NHS colleagues via publications and poster presentations.
- As part of the evaluation of the optimized service a review of the project implementation in relation to how successful it was at achieving its objectives will take place. Was the project implemented as planned? What would have happened under the do-nothing option? Did the project result in a more streamlined and efficient service for patients accessing the EAC and associated pathways.
- This project will be led by the project NHS Lead [Dr Ai Lyn Tan, Consultant Rheumatologist] & Abbvie Lead [Nicola Hampshire, HPM].
- The project effective date will be [May 2018] and approximate date for completion would be [May 2019].

The Intended Benefits of the Project:

The Patient:

- Patients will receive a more timely, equitable and consistent level of care which adheres to NICE guidelines
- Access to clinics will be improved as waiting times are reduced and pathways are clearer to the appropriate care.
- The experience of the overall rheumatology service will be improved for patients as outcomes are optimised.

The NHS:

- This project will help the team at Leeds to identify the problems that they have with their current service configuration
- Find solutions to those problems which will improve efficiency, patient flow and whole system management.
- Consistent care can subsequently be provided more rapidly whilst using current resources more efficiently.
- Meeting the needs of local commissioners
- Having a service which can be optimally aligned to treatment outcomes and efficiencies

AbbVie:

- Improved reputation by demonstrating commitment and willingness to invest in improving patient care through a fully transparent joint working agreement with Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust
- Improving NICE-approved medicines optimisation of all biologic therapies, of which AbbVie's adalimumab is one, in line with national guidelines due to improving capacity for provision
- Better understanding of Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust Rheumatology department and its patient's needs
- Opportunity to develop our relationship with the Trust further in order that we are able to continue working with them as our new pipeline evolves.

Project Outcomes

- **Updated Early Arthritis Pathway**
- **Updated associated rheumatology pathways including Psoriatic Arthritis, SpA and Rheumatoid Arthritis**

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