

**Date and Time:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 10.30 to 17.15

**Minutes:** to be confirmed

**Guideline Development Group 3: Spondyloarthritis**

**Place:** Bollin, NICE Manchester Office, Level 1a, Piccadilly Plaza,  
Manchester, M1 4BT

**Present:** Gary McVeigh (Chair) (GM)  
Carol McCrum (CM)  
Claire Strudwicke (CS)  
David Chandler (DC)  
Jon Packham (JP)  
Tina Hawkins (TH)  
Issak Bhojani (IB)  
Debbie Cook (DCo)  
Charlotte Davis (CD)  
Amanda Isdale (AI)  
Louise Warburton (LW)  
Nicky Goodson (NG)

None received

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:**

<b>NICE Staff</b>		
<b>In attendance:</b>		
Kate McAllister (KM) Stephanie Mills (SM) Gabriel Rogers (GR) [present for discussion on spondyloarthritis pathway]	Hugh McGuire (HM) Louise Shires (LS) Stephen Duffield (SD) [present for discussion on spondyloarthritis pathway]	Sharlene Ting (ST) Sara Buckner (SB) Steven Ward (SW)
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Maggie Derry (MD) Jemma Deane (JD)		

**1. Introductions, matters arising and declarations of interest**

GM welcomed all attendees, including two new members to the group, NG and CD. All committee members and NICE staff introduced themselves. GM went on to explain the objectives for the day, which were to consider the evidence on the effectiveness of long term treatment of antibiotics for the first line management of reactive arthritis and the effectiveness of manual therapies for managing spondyloarthritis. In addition to this, sessions on mapping out the spondyloarthritis pathway and agreeing further review protocols were planned.

No apologies were received and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

## **2. Review question 19 – long term treatment with antibiotics**

KM took the committee through the protocol for this review in particular highlighting the inclusion and exclusion criteria. In presenting the evidence, KM gave information on the duration of disease in the literature and length of follow-up in the studies. The quality of the evidence was highlighted when moving through the meta-analysis results.

The committee discussed the findings from the review, remarking on the differences in treating people with a new diagnosis to those with reactive arthritis for a long period of time. The committee went on to consider recommendations.

Following lunch, the committee were asked to look at the linking evidence to recommendations table which would underpin the review for question 19. The group went through this carefully, making amendments and coming to a final consensus about their interpretation of the evidence review which was conducted.

## **3. Review question 14 – manual therapies**

ST presented the evidence for the effectiveness of manual therapies in the treatment of people with spondyloarthritis. ST went through the inclusion and exclusion criteria in the review protocol and explained a variant which was made to the review protocol to ensure some evidence could be brought to the committee. ST asked the committee about the minimally important differences for extracted outcomes in the study literature.

The group discussed the quality of the evidence and also how this evidence interacted with the findings of the evidence review on the effectiveness of exercise therapies. The committee noted there was no evidence presented to gauge the effectiveness of manual therapies, used in isolation, for people with spondyloarthritis. The committee then considered if a specific recommendation for manual therapy could be made.

## **4. Mapping out the spondyloarthritis pathway**

The committee were asked to talk with the NICE guideline developing team about the pathway for people with spondyloarthritis. The heterogeneous nature and complexity of the condition itself, disease progression and treatment was commented on by the group. The sequencing and combinations of different types of therapies were debated. SWard, GR and SD helped facilitate the conversation on sequencing of drug therapy to support development of the health economic modelling and the evidence review for question 23 on effectiveness of pharmacological therapies for spondyloarthritis following first-line treatment.

## **5. Review protocols**

KM spoke to the group about a couple of protocols for upcoming evidence reviews to ensure these were accurate. Both evidence reviews were amended and signed-off by the committee.

## **6. Summary of the day**

GM thanked the group for their contributions. SM confirmed that the minutes and draft evidence chapters would be circulated following the meeting and that the next meeting will be held in the Manchester on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015.