NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Spondyloarthritis Committee meeting

Date: 24th March 2015

Location: Red Rooms, City Tower, Manchester

Minutes: Final

Committee members present:	
Gary McVeigh (Chair) (GM)	Present for all items
Amanda Isdale (AI)	Present for all items
Nicky Goodson (NG)	Present for all items
Louise Warburton (LW)	Present for all items
Tina Hawkins (TH)	Present for all items
Carol McCrum (CM)	Present for all items
Charlotte Davis (CD)	Present for all items
David Chandler (DC)	Present for all items
Claire Strudwicke (CS)	Present for all items

In attendance:		
Louise Shires	Guideline Commissioning Manager	Present for all
Sue Spiers	Associate Director	Present for all
Katherine McAllister	Technical Analyst	Present for all
Sara Buckner	Technical Analyst	Present for all
Steven Ward	Health Economist	
Margaret Derry	Project Manager	Present for all
Jemma Deane	Information Specialist	Present for the morning
James Hall	Medical Editor	Present for all
Observing:		
Shelly Patel	Medicines Advice Senior Adviser	Present for the morning

SA GDG 5 minutes

Apologies:	
Debbie Cook	Committee member
Jon Packham	Committee member
Issak Bhojani	Committee member

Notes

1. Welcome, minutes of the last meeting, declarations of interest and objectives for the meeting

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and attendees to the fifth guideline development group meeting.

Apologies were noted, as recorded above and minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record with one minor correction. The Chair provided a brief overview and objectives of the day highlighting the information that would be discussed.

All GDG members were asked to share any new conflicts of interest which have not previously been declared. TH declared an interest as follows:

- Author of an article on the diagnosis and management of osteoarthritis for the Clinical Pharmacist which is part of the Royal Pharmaceutical Journal. The article is not sponsored and the fee of £500 will be paid directly into the Pharmacy Dept study fund at LTH Hospital.

GM confirmed that as this was outside the remit of the guideline, TH could declare the interest and participate in discussions.

2. Review question 32 – long term complications associated with spondyloarthritis

KM took the committee through the protocol for this review in particular highlighting the inclusion and exclusion criteria. She noted that all the included studies were of low quality.

The group discussed the review protocol and agreed useful evidence had been excluded by specifying cohort studies with a priori defined follow-up time points. It was noted that the complications listed were a mixture of both complications of the disease and manifestations of the disease. This is a particularly grey area. In addition, many of the complications are reported by patients and not necessarily measurable. These reporting issues make it difficult to interpret the evidence. There is also emerging evidence for increased cardiac risk but as yet no available evidence. It was agreed that all these points would be clearly reflected in the Linking Evidence to Recommendations (LETR) table.

The committee discussed the findings from the review and, given the low quality of the evidence, went on to discuss their clinical experiences of disease complications. The group considered and drafted recommendations.
3. Linking evidence to recommendations - summary
Following lunch, the committee were asked to look at the linking evidence to recommendations table which would underpin the review for question 32. The group went through this carefully, making amendments and coming to a final consensus about their interpretation of the evidence review which was conducted.
4. Network Meta-Analysis
SB talked the group through the initial work she has prepared for the network meta-analysis and sought GDG advice to help develop this further. The findings will be presented at the June meeting. SB highlighted that this is purely about pharmacological interventions for the management of axial spondyloarthritis. There won't be a full cost analysis on this. The group discussed this further and addressed SB's questions. It was highlighted that anything that isn't listed in the BNF should be removed and that a head to head comparison of DMARD combinations might be helpful. The GDG agreed to let SB know if any further pharmacological interventions should be added to/removed from the current list.
6. The role of the Editor in guideline development
JH gave a presentation on the role of the editor in guideline development. This covered the different versions of the guideline, role of the editor with a particular focus on wording of the recommendations.
7. Agreeing review protocols
The group reviewed a number of protocols, finalising study design, population, outcomes, inclusion and exclusion criteria.
8. Any other business
There were no additional matters arising. The Chair summarised the discussions from the day, thanked the group for their work and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 15th & 16th June 2015

Location of next meeting: NICE offices, London