

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Use of tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF a) inhibitors (adalimumab, and
infliximab [review]) for Crohn's disease**

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 400,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Assessment Report – RCN Respons

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review and comment on the Assessment Report on the health technology appraisal of the use of tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF a) inhibitors (adalimumab, and infliximab [review]) for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

Whilst it is stated that it is outside the report's remit to look at the effectiveness of infliximab and adalimumab as 1st or top down therapy (point 7.4, page 233), the report does acknowledge that these treatments are cost effective as induction therapy.

Should we then not consider the implications of using infliximab or adalimumab as a bridging therapy in acute / severe cases to "rescue" patients from surgery in line with current practice? Patients can then be maintained on standard immunomodulator therapy alone, once they are over the initial crisis.

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