

Infliximab, adalimumab and golimumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis after the failure of conventional therapy

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Infliximab (also known as Remicade, Inflectra or Remsima), adalimumab (Humira) and golimumab (Simponi) are recommended. They are possible treatments for adults with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis if conventional therapy hasn't worked or isn't suitable.

Infliximab is also recommended as a possible treatment for children or young people aged 6–17 years with severe ulcerative colitis, if conventional therapy hasn't worked or isn't suitable.

People should be able to have the treatment for at least 12 months, unless it stops working

well enough. Their condition should be assessed at least every 12 months. Their doctor should discuss with them the benefits and risks of continuing or stopping treatment. If treatment is stopped and the ulcerative colitis gets worse, people should be able to start treatment again.

What does this mean for me?

If you are an adult with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis and your doctor thinks that infliximab, adalimumab or golimumab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

If you are a child or young person with severe ulcerative colitis and your doctor thinks that infliximab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

These treatments should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Infliximab, adalimumab and golimumab are recommended because the benefits to patients justify the costs.

The condition and the treatments

Ulcerative colitis is a long-term condition in which the lining of the large intestine becomes inflamed. The most common symptoms include bloody diarrhoea, abdominal (tummy) pain and needing to empty your bowels frequently. Conventional therapy includes corticosteroids and the drugs called mercaptopurine and azathioprine.

Infliximab (also known as Remicade, Inflectra or Remsima), adalimumab (Humira) and golimumab (Simponi) reduce inflammation of the intestine, easing the symptoms.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Crohns and Colitis UK, 01727 8300 385, www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk
- IA (the ileostomy and internal pouch support group), 0800 0184 724, www.iasupport.org

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Accreditation

