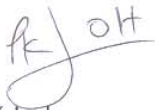


**WATAG Advisory Note****Criteria for withdrawal of infliximab (Remicade®) from the treatment of patients with severe plaque psoriasis - supplement to notice of approval**

SUPPLEMENT TO ADVISORY NOTE OF 19 APRIL 2007

The purpose of this Advisory Note is to advise WA public health services of the criteria for the withdrawal of infliximab (Remicade®) therapy where there is an inadequate response to its use in the treatment of severe plaque psoriasis. Criteria for stopping infliximab treatment have been developed in consultation with the WA Faculty of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, as previously advised. This document supplements the previously issued Advisory Note (19 April 2007) approving the use of infliximab for the treatment of patients with severe plaque psoriasis for whom phototherapy or conventional systemic treatments have been inadequate or are inappropriate, subject to described restrictions.

To qualify for ongoing maintenance therapy with infliximab, patients receiving treatment according to either the manufacturer's or the alternative regimen (see Advisory Note of 19 April 2007) must demonstrate a 75% reduction in psoriasis area and severity index (PASI) score at between 10 and 14 weeks after commencing infliximab therapy. Noting that patients must have a PASI score of greater than 15 to qualify for infliximab, responding patients would be expected show a PASI score of less than 4 or 5 after 10 to 14 weeks, and should continue to show this level of response to be eligible for maintenance therapy. A similar level of responsiveness should be expected for patients with severe psoriasis on the hands, face and/or feet. Patients not showing a 75% reduction in PASI score are ineligible for further treatment with infliximab, and should cease to receive this drug.



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