

Payer Insights: RA [2016]: Bulletin #3

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Abstracts

This edition presents payer views on recent developments in the rheumatoid arthritis (RA) market. Topics include; recent approvals for biosimilar rituximab products in Europe Celltrion/Mundipharma's Truxima (CT-P10) and Sandoz (Novartis)' Rixathon; approvals of biosimilar anti-TNF therapies in the EU/US with Merck & Co. launching Renflexis (biosimilar infliximab) in the US at a 35 percent discount to the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) of Remicade; and the approval of Regeneron/Sanofi's interleukin-6 (IL-6) inhibitor Kevzara (sarilumab) in the US at a 30 percent discount to branded market leaders Humira and Enbrel.

Business Questions:

How do payers view the recently approved biosimilars of rituximab?

How will the availability of biosimilar rituximab impact the usage of the drug in RA; will rituximab be used in earlier treatment settings?

On what factors will the switch from branded to biosimilar rituximab depend?

How is the launch of biosimilar adalimumab expected to alter the RA treatment algorithm?

What level of discount do payers demand in order to facilitate market penetration of biosimilar adalimumab?

How will the 35 percent discount on biosimilar infliximab alter the RA treatment paradigm in the US?

How will biosimilars be positioned in the formulary for the treatment of RA?

What factors will drive the acceptance of biosimilars by payers?

How will payers manage the use of biosimilars in treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients?

How do payers view the pricing strategy for Kevzara and where will it be positioned in the formulary?

How do payers view the anti-IL-6 drug class for the treatment of RA and how do they compare with oral JAK inhibitors?

What drug class will payers prefer to contract for the treatment of RA and why?

How is the RA treatment paradigm expected to evolve in the future?

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