

Executive Summary

Royal United Hospitals, Bath & UCB UK

Project:

The Rheumatology Digital Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU) project. This is a non-promotional collaborative working project between UCB Pharma Ltd and Royal United Hospitals Bath.

Project summary:

Provide and implement a remote monitoring solution to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery and improve patient clinical outcomes and experience.

This collaboration between UCB and Royal United Hospitals of Bath will focus on the development of a rheumatology clinical platform designed to support multiple patient pathways, collect and manage patient data, including Patient Reported Outcomes Measures, as well as produce reports for clinician's and patient's dashboards.

The initiative aims to:

- Empower patients to take control of their disease through the ability to track their disease through validated Patient Reported Outcome Measures and clinician touchpoints over time;
- Facilitate the communication between patients and rheumatologists, utilizing a digital platform to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery.
- Identification of patients who report outcome measures that are outside of the clinically-determined threshold levels enabling their care to be reviewed and optimised more quickly than if the patient had to wait for a scheduled appointment.
- Support the care of well-controlled patients with minimal disease activity out of secondary care, increasing capacity to manage those patients who are not achieving optimal outcomes.
- Support clinicians to make an informed decision about a patient treatment plan based on reported outcomes.
- Enable clinicians to prioritise new patient referrals and the backlog of patients based on assessment of patient need using the validated Patient Reported Outcomes Measures

Project Contribution

UCB will provide Royal United Hospitals of Bath with access to a digital rheumatology management platform across various disease areas (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, connective tissues disorders, pain) for customisation, deployment and service impact evaluation (3 years from the date of original launch – June 2024). No direct financial support will be provided.

Royal United Hospitals of Bath will contribute their expertise to the design, development and ongoing clinical use of the digital rheumatology platform in daily clinical practice across specified disease areas.

Roles and responsibilities

- RUH will provide both clinical expertise (eg rheumatologist, specialist nurse) with appropriate medical expertise and Database manager time to guide platform customisation and new feature development.
- RUH will facilitate the adoption and roll out of the of the platform with appropriate support from IT and other relevant functions.
- RUH will leverage their internal staff for clinical use of the platform for the duration of the Agreement.
- RUH will guide the impact service evaluation and feasibility assessment to expand to other therapeutic areas.
- UCB will support RUH with required operational resources for the duration of the Agreement, e.g. Digital Health Navigator to operate the platform.
- UCB will provide a digital platform customised to RUH set-up for the duration of the Joint Working Agreement.
- UCB will provide project management support for solution implementation and partnership governance.
- Each of the Parties will bear its own costs for participation in both workstreams.

Planned milestones

- Define project plan, timelines and resourcing
- Agree and refine Outcomes and KPI's
- Agree on platform technical capabilities and specifications
- Adapt digital platform to RUH
- Go live of patient management component for Axial Spondylarthritis
- Adapt digital platform for Psoriatic Arthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Go live of patient management for Psoriatic Arthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Design service evaluation study and reporting template
- Complete service evaluation and publish the results

Anticipated benefits for patients

- Providing patients with an enhanced way to access healthcare support ensuring that they get the care they need when they need it.
- Streamlining care coordination and communication between patients and their healthcare providers to create a clear, structured and well-supported care plan.
- Reducing the number of hospital appointments for patients who are well controlled and maintaining optimal outcomes – creating an opportunity to save patients time, reducing time off work and the associated financial burden with travel to hospital appointments.
- Better understanding and management of their disease by using the Patient Reported

Outcomes Measures questionnaires.

Anticipated benefits for the NHS

- Optimise patient pathway management through data visualisation tools providing personalised care and improving patient outcomes
- Enables healthcare professionals to efficiently manage their patient load through remote monitoring, allowing them to prioritize patients in need of face-to-face appointments and reducing unnecessary visits.
- Enhance communication and collaboration with patients through access to a wide range of trusted support resources and educational materials.
- Identify insights from aggregated patient cohort data to better understand disease burden, facilitate research, and uncover new treatment pathways.
- Customise pathways and alerts according to individual patient needs, ensuring they receive care in a timely manner and reducing the risk of under-treatment.

Anticipated benefits for UCB

- Improved capabilities to design and deploy digital health solutions in rheumatology
- Prove the value of the new care model setup
- Improved reputation through collaboration on a major clinical unmet need
- Position UCB as a healthcare innovator and partner of choice for digital healthcare transformation in the UK.
- Better understanding of Axial Spondylarthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis disease pathways and patient journey

Declaration

1. The project is in line with the ABPI code of practice
2. Does not constitute inducement to prescribe UCB Pharma products
3. The project has been approved by the NHS and UCB Pharma governance teams
4. The project will be published on the UCB Pharma Partnerships Website.