

This material was funded and developed in collaboration between UCB Pharma Ltd and The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as part of a non-promotional Collaborative Working project.

Executive Summary

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Limited, Leeds service optimisation collaborative project.

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Limited, are embarking on a collaborative working project to ensure optimisation of Rheumatology services for patients with Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSPA) and Psoriatic Arthritis.

The project facilitates the Rheumatology service team to identify areas for optimisation within their osteoporosis, Spondyloarthritis (SPA) and general rheumatology clinics supporting improved access to specialised medicines and clinics, enhanced service experiences, support from referral through to treatment and monitoring.

The primary aim is to support the Collaborative Working Partner (CWP) The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust by providing pathway mapping support for service optimisation and a contribution to nurse resource to:

1. Identify potential service inefficiencies and service bottlenecks. Optimisation of these by CWP will lead to improved standards of care, improve use and service productivity
2. Address the challenges in the delivery of standard of care in Rheumatology service

Collaborative Project Summary:

This collaborative project between Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Limited is designed to significantly enhance both access and the overall quality of Rheumatology and Osteoporosis services. The initiative seeks to address the needs of patients diagnosed with Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSPA), and Psoriatic Arthritis by expanding the capacity of specialist clinics and refining the pathways through which patients receive care. By streamlining patient journeys from referral to treatment and ongoing monitoring, the project aims to remove existing barriers to specialised medicines and clinics, thereby providing a more seamless and positive service experience.

A fundamental component of this project is the strengthening of the clinical workforce, achieved through the establishment of a dedicated 1.0 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Band 6 nurse post for a period of 12 months. This nurse will support both bone and rheumatology clinics, playing a pivotal role in facilitating improved patient pathways and offering direct assistance to both patients and clinicians. The impact of this role will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness in streamlining care and enhancing service delivery.

The collaborative project will undertake scoping, mapping and analysis of the biologic patient pathway for certain conditions such as Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, SPA, and AxSPA. This process will identify gaps, inefficiencies, and areas for improvement, with the aim of achieving more efficient and effective patient management. The project aims to ensure that improvements are sustained and that the intended benefits are realised across the service.

This summary has been written by UCB Pharma Ltd with consultation and approval from the Collaborative project working team.

Project contribution:

UCB Pharma: £50,000 covering recruitment of band 6 nurse for 12 months. Agency support of £15,000 for Rheumatology service mapping

Leeds NHS Trust: These contributions are not direct monetary contributions and are a reflective of the estimated amount of hours (in £ value) that will be required to implement the project. Clinical Workforce equivalency of £35,800, 1 PA consultant and 6 PA registered nurse time.

The project commences in December 2025 and is 12-month duration.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Role in the Project:

- Recruitment of band 6 nurse to assist with streamlining patient pathways Professional and managerial accountability for band 6 nurse
- Attendance of steering group at the monthly meeting
- Attendance of wider team at the transformation workshop/ meetings with third party provider
- Collation of operational data to support the project
- Co-develop summary report at end of project

UCB Pharma Ltd

Role in the Project:

- Third party facilitation of service/pathway mapping activities
- Attendance and contribution of Service Partnership Lead at service/patient mapping
- Facilitation of monitoring of project via steering committee
- Facilitation of summary report at end of project
- Financial support

Intended benefit:

For the patient	<p>Patients gain improved access to specialised medicines and clinics, enhanced service experiences, and support from referral, through treatment and patient monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to specialised medicines and treatments. • Improving access to specialised clinics for patients with Osteoporosis and Rheumatology conditions
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing services offered and improving the patients experience of these services • Supporting the service to monitor standards of care • Patient end to end support from referral to treatment and beyond.
For the NHS	<p>The financial and resource support given in this project gives the current Rheumatology service an opportunity to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved pathways that utilise the capacity and specialised clinical competencies • Efficiency in the functioning of the Rheumatology service • Efficiencies in utilising service resource capacity • Clinical care aligned with standards of care • Project should improve patient waiting times
For UCB	<p>Providing financial and resource support to the NHS Trusts in this project helps UCB understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding resource utilisation for service delivery in the NHS • Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high quality patient services and care • It is expected to see an increase in the use of biologic medication in line with local and national guidelines and standards of care • Showcase enhanced collaboration with partners and a strengthened organisational reputation

It is anticipated that a report on the outcomes from this joint working project will be published by April 2027

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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.

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