

**etanercept 50mg subcutaneous injection (Enbrel[®]) for
ankylosing spondylitis (No. 303/06)**

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Product Update – New Formulation

4 August 2006 (*Issued September 2006*)

The Scottish Medicines Consortium has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees (ADTCs) on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

etanercept 50mg subcutaneous injection (Enbrel[®]) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of adults with severe active ankylosing spondylitis who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy. It is restricted to use in accordance with the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) guidelines of July 2004.

Etanercept improves signs and symptoms, physical function and quality of life in patients with severe active ankylosing spondylitis. It reduces acute spinal inflammation, but there is no radiological evidence that it decreases joint damage. It is a cost-effective treatment option when used in accordance with the BSR guidelines and where clear and rigorous stopping rules are applied. The 50mg formulation facilitates once weekly administration of etanercept at no additional cost over the existing 25mg formulation that is administered twice weekly.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 22 August 2006.

Chairman, Scottish Medicines Consortium