

# Medicine: anakinra (brand name: Kineret®) for Still's Disease

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum Ltd (SOBI)

## What is Still's Disease?

Still's disease is a rare inflammatory condition that causes inflammation of the joints and also high fevers and rash. It can begin in childhood when it is known as Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (SJIA) or in adulthood when it is known as Adult Onset Still's Disease (AOSD).

## How does anakinra work?

Anakinra is an immunosuppressive medicine. It blocks a protein in the body called interleukin-1 (IL-1) that is involved in causing the inflammation and swelling in Still's disease. By blocking IL-1's activity, anakinra can reduce the inflammation and symptoms of Still's disease.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted anakinra for the treatment of adults, adolescents, children and infants aged 8 months or older (who weigh at least 10kg) with Still's disease (including AOSD and SJIA) who have active systemic features of moderate to high disease activity or who still have symptoms after treatment with anti-inflammatory medicines.

Anakinra can be used by itself or with other medicines such as other anti-inflammatory medicines and disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs).



## Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration, applying extra flexibility because anakinra is a medicine for a rare condition, SMC was able to accept it as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

### What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that anakinra for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with Still's disease and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

#### National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society



<http://www.nras.org.uk>



0800 298 7650

You can find out more about anakinra in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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