



Effective Health Care

Rheumatoid Arthritis Medications for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Rheumatoid arthritis medications for the treatment of osteoarthritis lacks the clinical context necessary to develop given limited program resources. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions whether a rheumatoid arthritis drug could be used for the treatment of osteoarthritis and if this treatment would be more effective than current osteoarthritis treatments.

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- This topic could not be evaluated due to insufficient information given in the original nomination. Specifically, this nomination lacks information on the specific interventions of interest, and an appropriate intervention could not be determined through review of the clinical literature.
- Osteoarthritis is a chronic condition involving degeneration of cartilage within the joints. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that involves inflammation of the synovium (a thin layer of tissue lining a joint space) with progressive erosion of bone, leading in most cases to misalignment of the joint, loss of function, and disability. Given the different nature of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, it does not appear appropriate to examine the effectiveness of rheumatoid arthritis treatments in patients with osteoarthritis. The only treatments these two conditions have in common are acetaminophen, NSAIDs, and corticosteroids. The nominator is most likely referring to the use of DMARDs or biologics for the treatment of osteoarthritis; we were unable to identify any literature suggesting that these treatments are being used or studied in patients with osteoarthritis.