NHS

National Patient Safety Agency

National Research Ethics Service

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO MAIN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
(For all studies except clinical trials of investigational medicinal products)

To be completed in typescript and submitted to the main REC by the Chief Investigator. For questions with Yes/No options please indicate answer in bold type.

1. Details of Chief Investigator

Name:	Professor Deborah Symmons and Dr Kimme Hyrich
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2. Details of study

Full title of study:	Prospective Observational Study of the long term hazards of anti-TNF therapy in rheumatoid arthritis
Name of main REC:	North West MREC
REC reference number:	MREC 00/8/53
Date of favourable ethical opinion:	1st December 2000
Sponsor:	The University of Manchester

3. Commencement and termination dates

Has the study started?	***Yes*** / *No*
If yes, what was the actual start date?	1st October 2001
If no, what are the reasons for the study not commencing? What is the expected start date?	N/A
Has the study finished?	*Yes* / ***No*** *If yes, complete and submit "Declaration of end of study" form, available at www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk*

If no, what is the expected completion date? *If you expect the study to overrun the planned completion date this should be notified to the main REC for information.*	Four cohorts are currently open to recruitment: i) participants starting tocilizumab ii) participants starting certolizumab iii) Anti-TNF comparison cohort iv) participants starting a biosimilar All participants recruited to these cohorts will be followed up for at least 5 years.
If you do not expect the study to be completed, give reason(s)	N/A

4. Site information

Is this a study requiring site-specific assessment (SSA) and ethical approval of each site and local Principal Investigator? If yes, how many UK research sites have been recruited Has the Site Specific Information Form (SSIF)* been submitted to the local REC for each local Principal Investigator? **or Part C or Annex D of the former MREC application form if submitted prior to 1 March 2004*	*Yes / **No*** *Proposed in original application:* *Actual number recruited to date:* *Yes / No /**Not applicable***
Is this study "SSA-exempt"? * If yes, how many UK sites are currently involved in facilitating this research? ** or was previously designated as a "no local investigator" or "no local researcher" study*	***Yes** / No* This is a national study; all rheumatology departments prescribing biologic therapy in the UK are participating. Local investigators are only required to inform LREC/R&D of study participation – see original MREC approval (dated 01/12/2000)
Do you plan to increase the total number of UK sites proposed for the study? If yes, how many sites do you plan to recruit? *In the case of studies requiring SSA, all sites must be approved by the main REC as part of the favourable opinion.*	***Yes** / No* Only if new rheumatologists treat patients with biologic therapy.

5. Recruitment of participants

*Number of participants recruited:	*Proposed in original application:* 16,000 biologic patients , 1,100 rituximab patients, 1050 tocilizumab patients, 2,000 certolizumab patients, 2,000 biosimilar patients and 4,000 patients to the anti-TNF comparison cohort. In addition to this, there was a recruitment target of 4,000 patients in the non-biologic DMARD comparison cohort. *Actual number recruited to date:* - 15,014 patients to the original biologic cohorts (recruitment now closed) - 1,500 rituximab patients (recruitment now closed) - 3,775 DMARD comparison patients (recruitment now closed) - 1113 certolizumab patients - 999 tocilizumab patients - 1492 anti-TNF comparison cohort patients - 16 biosimilar patients
*Number of participants completing trial:	*Proposed in original application:* All participants are being followed-up until at least 2018.
*Number of withdrawals due to: (a) lack of efficacy (b) adverse events (c) self-withdrawal (d) non-compliance Total number of withdrawals:	 0 (n/a) 0 (n/a) 387 0 (n/a) 387
Have there been any serious difficulties in recruiting participants?	*Yes / **No***
If Yes, give details:	N/A
Do you plan to increase the planned recruitment of participants into the study? *Any increase in planned recruitment should be notified to the main REC as a substantial amendment for ethical review.*	*Yes / **No** (unless new targeted therapies for RA are licensed in the UK in the future)*

** In the case of international trials, please provide separate figures for UK and non-UK participants.*

6. Safety of participants

Have there been any *related* and *unexpected* Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) in this study?	*Yes / No – **Not Applicable*** This is an observational cohort study to monitor long term safety of new therapies for rheumatoid arthritis. It is therefore the responsibility of consultant/nurse to assess causality and report to the regulatory authorities as necessary.
Have these SAEs been notified to the Committee?	

If no, please submit details with this report and give reasons for late notification.	*Yes / No /**Not applicable***
Have any concerns arisen about the safety of participants in this study? *If yes, give details and say how the concerns have been addressed.*	*Yes / **No***

7. Amendments

Have any substantial amendments been made to the trial during the year?	***Yes** / No*
If yes, please give the date and amendment number for each substantial amendment made	Date approved: Amendment 20 approved 16/03/2015 Reason: This amendment covers (i) the addition of biosimilar drugs to the BSRBR-RA study (ii) increase in size of the anti-TNF comparison cohort (from 2000 to 4000)

8. Other issues

Are there any other developments in the study that you wish to report to the Committee? Are there any ethical issues on which further advice is required?	***Yes** / No* We would like to make the committee aware that we are currently developing the study web portal for clinicians/nurses to enter baseline and follow-up data. This will run alongside the original paper based system until fully operational. This amendment was approved by the committee in 2010. We are also developing a web portal for patients to better communicate news about the study and also to enter follow up data. This will also run alongside the original paper based system. Any required changes will be presented to the committee as a substantial amendment for approval prior to implementation. *Yes / **No*** *If yes to either, please attach separate statement with details.*

9. Declaration

Signature of Chief Investigator:	Dymmons.
Print name:	D P M Symmons.
Date:	3/12/15