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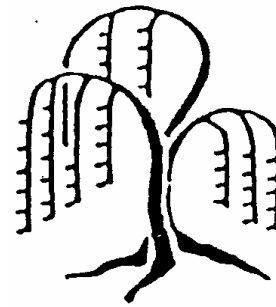
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**A R A D**

**Australian  
Rheumatology  
Association  
Database**

**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

ARAD is funded by:  
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Cabrini Health

**Educational Grants from:**

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd

Amgen Australia Pty Ltd

Roche Products Pty Ltd

Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd

**Previous Sponsors**

Aventis

Schering Plough

**Q. What is the purpose of ARAD?**

A. To develop a national database of patients with inflammatory arthritis on biological drugs (bDMARDS) as well patients treated with conventional therapies

**Q What are the aims of ARAD?**

A. To determine the long and short term effectiveness and safety of bDMARDS prescribed for inflammatory arthritis as measured by mortality, function and disability, quality of life and the incidence of adverse events.

**Q. What types of patients should be considered for ARAD?**

A. All patients with rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis irrespective of their treatment.

**Q What biological therapies are currently available?**

A. At this time there are:

- Etanercept – Wyeth
- Infliximab – Schering Plough
- Adalimumab – Abbott
- Anakinra – Amgen
- Mabthera – Roche
- Abatacept - Bristol-Myers Squibb

**Q. What will the database provide to rheumatologists?**

A. Rheumatologists will receive bi-annual reports about the quality of life of their patients who are enrolled on the registry. This will be compared with a summary of de-identified data collected from all patients in the database.

**Q. How will this data be presented?**

A. It will be available as a report.

**Q. What is being asked of the rheumatologist?**

A. While preparing your documentation for submission to Medicare Australia for reimbursed supply of a biologic, the following actions are requested:

- Provide information about ARAD to the patient (e.g. Patient Brochure)
- Ask the patient to sign the 'Permission to contact' form if they agree to enrol
- Complete the **Rheumatologist box** on the "Permission to contact" form
- **Advise** the patient that ARAD will contact them to discuss the registry in further detail.
- Fax the 'Permission to contact' form to the ARAD Data Management Centre on (toll free) 1800 022 730

**Q. What is the patient being asked to do?**

A. Participation involves completing a written postal questionnaire survey every 6 months. Each questionnaire should take about 30 minutes to complete. There are NO blood tests or physical measurements in ARAD.

**Q. What data is being collected from these questionnaires?**

A. There are a number of sections including:

- Demographic information
- Arthritis history
- Cancer history
- Other illnesses experienced
- Treatments history including adverse reactions
- Health status measures such as HAQ, SF-36, EUROQoL and AQoL

**Q. Why is it important to collect data on 'control' patients?**

A. Data from 'control' patients will be compared with the changes in health outcomes of the patients treated with biologics. This applies to the efficacy, safety and quality of life outcomes.

**Q. What about patients that have already started on biologics?**

A. It is important to collect data from all patients irrespective of when they commenced biologics.

**Q. What happens when a patient changes from one biologic to another?**

A. This data is also be collected as well as the reasons for the switch in drugs.

**Q. What happens if they stop taking biologic medications?**

A. Patients can continue in ARAD even when they stop taking biologics. This is because ARAD is interested in long term outcomes in all patents with inflammatory arthritis. Patients can stay in ARAD for as long as they agree to participate.

**Q. What if the patient does not qualify for biologic therapy when submitted to Medicare Australia?**

A. These patients are still eligible to be included in the ARAD registry. They will form part of the control group.

**Q. Who will have access to the patient contact details?**

A. The data that is provided will be sent to the ARAD State Co-ordinators. Only the State Co-ordinators have contact with the patient. Data will not be passed onto any one outside the study team.

**Q. What security is in place to protect the data collected from patient questionnaires?**

A. All patients are allocated with a unique project number. All data containing patient names, contact details and clinical information are kept in a password protected database and will be accessible only by the ARAD study team.

**Q. What if I need to ask more questions?**

A. Please feel free to contact your state ARAD co-ordinator listed on the back of this document.

**Q. Do you have any information that I can give to my patient's when discussing this project?**

A. Yes, there is a Patient Brochure. This is available on the ARA website or from your ARAD state co-ordinator.

**Q. What role do the pharmaceutical companies have in ARAD?**

A. Four pharmaceutical companies have provided unconditional educational grants to ARAD. No data will be provided to the companies that will in any way compromise the confidentiality of the providers of the data to the registry.