Talking AS
Simple and secure PROM collection for AS patients

What is Talking AS?
Talking AS is an online platform, developed by AbbVie and the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath to help patients and clinicians monitor symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a long term condition that affects around 200,000 people in the UK. For people with AS, regularly recording symptoms and how they affect everyday life can help when planning the best way to manage their condition. Until now, this has been the responsibility of healthcare professionals to complete in hospital, but Talking AS allows patients to record symptoms in their own time, in the place of their choosing, ready for their next appointment, helping to maximise time spent with their healthcare professional in their clinic. In addition, the site hosts a separate area (which sits on the NHS N3 network) for Healthcare Professionals (HCPs). Through Talking AS, patients can fill in AS assessment forms for the BASDAI, Spinal Pain, BASFI and WPAI scores online at home.

Talking AS gives the patient’s HCP secure access to patient results in one central place, which can be tracked over time to help manage clinical decisions, more time in clinic to discuss how best to manage a patient’s AS, and an easy way to see how treatment decisions are affecting patient outcomes over time.

Talking AS is offered for free to patients and the NHS and is driven by the following aims:

• Empowering the patient – aiming to make the patient feel more confident about the management of their condition
• Giving time back to the clinician – so that the clinician is provided with richer information to aid decisions about patient care
• Ensuring that assessments are performed regularly – giving a full history of disease activity over time without the need to refer back to old patient notes
• Making better use of the clinic time – using the assessment data, the clinician can immediately see which patients need to be seen more regularly (because their condition is not under control) and which patients can be seen less regularly (because their condition is well-managed and stable). This provides potential for less wasted time in clinic and for the patient.

What are people saying about Talking AS?

“This is a great tool to enable patients to take even more responsibility for the management of their condition.
Debbie Cook, director of the National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society (NASS) and governor of The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD)

“Once a patient is diagnosed with AS, their disease should be monitored using a range of patient completed questionnaires in order to monitor their progress. NICE guidelines recommend a three-monthly review if AS patients are on biologics, but it may not be possible or necessary to see a patient in person every three months, which is why Talking AS is such a great solution. I firmly believe that innovative solutions such as this will go some way to addressing the ongoing capacity burden that the NHS is facing across a broad range of disease areas.
Dr Raj Sengupta, Lead Consultant for Ankylosing Spondylitis at Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath who helped in the development of this online tool.

Generating real world outcomes for the NHS and patients

The system has been in use by HCPs since it was launched in April 2012. At launch there was proactive support and endorsements from patient organisation the National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society (NASS) and clinicians including Dr Raj Sengupta, Lead Consultant for Ankylosing Spondylitis at Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath who helped in the development of this online tool.

As well as:
1. Helping the NHS to adhere to NICE guidelines
2. Providing a live snapshot of a patients condition which can be compared to previous scores
3. Aiding treatment decisions which include decisions around physical activity
4. Helping to monitor flares

For more information, please contact James Gardner by email at jgames.gardner@abbvie.com or by telephone at +44 (0) 7957 501629

References
1. NASS, Ankylosing Spondylitis Guidebook, 2012, BerkeleyPendle, Bristol
2. Clare Clerk, Advanced Practitioner, Occupational Therapy, Neath & Port Talbot Hospital – efficiency gains were as part of a service redesign that included Talking AS as a component.

AbbVie is a biopharmaceutical company with an interest in the therapy area of Rheumatology. This poster was created by AbbVie.

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