I6. CHALLENGE 3: JUSTIFYING USE

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Biologics are expensive and likely to remain so. With potential escalating costs we need to justify their use to the wider NHS, in particular to purchasers of our local services. For most, this involves collecting accurate data showing that we meet current NICE guidance. But justification of use may go beyond this. There is a story behind each patient and the impact of treatment is rarely borne out in figures alone. Justifying the use of biologics includes revisiting several old questions but also addressing never issues: How can we measure benefit? Where will escalating costs end? Should there be continued rationing? How do we manage these issues with increasing numbers of patients and existing pressures on resources? This presentation will attempt to explore some of these challenges from the perspective of a busy rheumatology clinic.

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