

# ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE



Led by:

In partnership with and supported by:



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

*Aspiring to Excellence* is an award programme designed to encourage and recognise service improvement in axial SpA (AS) care. It provides a focal point from which professionals can explore and test approaches to reduce the delay to diagnosis and improve axial SpA (AS) care and patient experience. The knowledge and experience generated is shared in real-time across the UK and internationally to help stimulate across-the-board improvements in care.

*Aspiring to Excellence* is a strategic partnership between the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS), BRITSpA and sponsoring companies AbbVie, Biogen, Novartis and UCB, and is an essential part of our Every Patient, Every Time campaign, launched at the House of Commons in December 2018.

Based upon the Breakthrough Series Collaborative model, *Aspiring to Excellence* is delivered through a blended programme of face-to-face, webinar and coaching sessions with ongoing support in between. Participants will be introduced to a variety of improvement toolkits, all underpinned by the Model for Improvement and will be guided to understand variations in care and undertake tests of change using Plan, Do Study Act (PDSA) cycles.

# What will you gain?

- Be part of a learning environment to explore problems in the delivery of high quality axial SpA (AS) care, identifying and testing solutions through four network meetings each year for two years
- Access to a team of improvement and learning experts who will support you in achieving local improvement goals
- Peer support from other participating rheumatology services
- Opportunities to share results through webinars, conferences and publication and to help shape future health policy on axial SpA (AS)
- Promote your service locally as a potential model of excellence
- All costs for travel, accommodation and meals are covered





**“ All of this is new to me and seems like an excellent way of driving positive change. ”**

**– Cohort 1 Team Member**

# How will the axial SpA (AS) community benefit?

- The programme tests out potential ways to reduce the delay to diagnosis, achieve cost efficiencies and improve care; this will be relevant to all rheumatology services .
- All rheumatology services have access to learning and materials, including webinars, learning reports and conference presentations.
- The learning will be presented to parliamentarians and policy makers in order to give axial SpA (AS) a higher profile and policy priority.



# How will patients benefit?

There should be demonstrable benefits to patients treated at award-holding services as well as a positive impact on axial SpA (AS) patients more generally through the dissemination and spread work of the programme

Patients treated at *Aspiring to Excellence* services should experience:

- A shorter time from symptom onset to diagnosis.
- A shorter time to effective treatment.
- Improved satisfaction with axial SpA (AS) services.

**“ It’s wonderful to have time to think about and address service problems with the team. ”**

**– Cohort 1 Team Member**

# APPLICATION TIMELINE



**23 March**

Applications open for 18 weeks



**24 July**

Applications close



**5-6 October**

Shortlisted applicants present to the Awards panel



Awards panel agree six successful services



**14 November**

Awards are announced at NASS Voices event in Bristol



**3 December**

First network meeting

**“ It is good to have time to spend with other teams who have similar aims to share ideas. ”**

**– Cohort 1 Team Member**

# Cohort meetings



Successful services will attend four network meetings per year for two years. Meetings are facilitated by NHS Transformation Unit as part of our delivery team.



**NHS**  
Transformation Unit



**“ I learnt that you  
can innovate with  
what you have,  
you don't need  
extra resource. ”**

**– Cohort 1 Team Member**



**APPLY NOW AT**  
**[www.nass.co.uk/aspiring-to-excellence](http://www.nass.co.uk/aspiring-to-excellence)**

## **Any Questions?**

Email [aspiringtoexcellence@nass.co.uk](mailto:aspiringtoexcellence@nass.co.uk) or call **020 3011 5133**.



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