

# ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE

## Aspiring to Excellence award applications guidance

### What is Aspiring to Excellence?

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

- Strategic partnership between NASS, BRITSpA and sponsoring companies AbbVie, Biogen, Lilly, Novartis and UCB
- Part of our [Every patient, Every time](#) campaign

### Who can apply?

Aspiring to Excellence is aimed at rheumatology services across the UK. Whether you are a single rheumatology department, a larger service or a primary and/or tertiary care centre. We are looking to recognise services which:

- Provide high quality patient-centred clinical care
- Strive to improve and help other services to improve
- Work collaboratively with other services to join up patient care
- Share best practice with others
- Understand the importance of the [Every patient, Every time](#) campaign principles in reducing the delay to diagnosis
- Demonstrate effective leadership and teamwork

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## Do you want to raise standards in axial SpA care?

Apply for Aspiring to Excellence awards programme, open to rheumatology services across the UK

Services that are aspiring to improve their care gain support and a multi-site learning environment

Identify and disseminate learning material in order that others can improve their care

### What will you gain?

- Be part of a learning environment to explore problems in the delivery of high quality axial SpA care, identifying and testing solutions through **4 network meetings** each year for **2 years**
- Access to a team of improvement and learning experts who will provide support to achieving local improvement goals
- Peer support from other participating rheumatology services
- Opportunities to share results through webinars, conferences and publication and help shape future health policy on axial SpA
- Promote your service locally as a potential model of excellence

\*Any costs for participants travel, accommodation and meals will be covered

### How will the axial SpA rheumatology community benefit?

- The programme provides an opportunity to test out potential ways to reduce the delay to diagnosis, achieve cost efficiencies and improve care; which is relevant to all rheumatology services
- 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 a higher profile and policy priority

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## How will patients benefit?

- There should be demonstrable benefits to patients treated at award holding services as well as a positive effect to axial SpA patients more generally through the dissemination and spread work of the programme
- Patients treated at *Aspiring to Excellence* services should experience:
  - A shorter time to diagnosis from symptom onset
  - A shorter time to effective treatment
  - Improved satisfaction with axial SpA services

## How do you apply?



Please complete an application to send to Lisa Swingler ([lisaswingler@nass.co.uk](mailto:lisaswingler@nass.co.uk)) which includes:

- Application form (in Word or PDF)
- A paper answering the 10 statements within the Quality framework
- Copy of the lead applicants CV

## How will applications be processed?

Applications will be shortlisted by an award panel comprising of those providing:

- Patient perspective
- Clinical perspective
- NASS CEO and a trustee with no personal or institutional conflict

We will notify shortlisted applicants during the w/c 18 January 2021. Once shortlisted, applicants will be asked to present to the awards panel on **1 February 2021**.

## When will it be decided who has been successful?

The successful services will be notified during the w/c 8 February 2021 and then publicly announced on **17 March 2021** at the NASS Parliamentary reception.

## What happens to unsuccessful applicants?

It will be possible to reapply next year. The programme is running over 3 years, with the third cohort due to start around November 2021.

For any questions not answered above please do contact Lisa Swingler [lisaswingler@nass.co.uk](mailto:lisaswingler@nass.co.uk).

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