**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 2: ETHICS AND LOCAL APPROVALS**

**Cohort Studies**

*Studies Of Changes In Disease Activity Over Time*

The first two cohorts received Research Ethics approval (from the King’s College Hospital Research Ethics Committee and the South Thames Multicentre Research Ethics Committee) and all patients provided informed consent. The last two cohorts received Local Research and Development approval as they were classified as audits of RA management against national guidance.

*Studies of DAS28-ESR And Remission*

The observational studies of European Caucasian patients were drawn from the cross-sectional studies outlined above. The 197 Black African/Caribbean British patients were enrolled in one previous observational study (the GENRA case-control study) which was approved by the National Research Ethics Service Committee London-Dulwich, reference: 11/LO/1244). The 430 Arab patients had been reported in one previous observational study and data was collected as an audit of anonymised clinical data collated using national guidance in Saudi Arabia.

**Longitudinal Studies**

*Guy’s Observational Study*

Ethics approval was obtained from the Health Research Authority (IRAS project ID: 209418). As the Guy’s RA centre comprises routinely collected anonymised healthcare data, written consent was not required.

*Early Rheumatoid Arthritis Network*

Ethical approval was obtained from the Trent Research Ethics (Reference 01/4/047) and all patients provided informed consent.

*REMIRA Cohort*

Ethics approval was obtained from the Wandsworth Research Ethics Committee (Reference 09/H0803/154). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

**Clinical Trials**

*CARDERA*

The trial was approved by the South East Multicentre Research Ethics Committee (MREC (1) 99/04) and local research ethics committees at each centre. All patients gave written informed consent. The trial was registered as ISRCTN 32484878.

*TACIT*

The trial was approved by University College London Hospital Research Ethics Committee (MREC Ref 07/Q0505/57). All patients gave written informed consent. The trial was registered as ISRCTN 37438295.

*OPTTIRA*

The trial was approved by the North West London Research Ethics Committee (REC Ref 10/H0720/69). All patients gave written informed consent. The trial was registered as ISRCTN 28955701

**Qualitative Research**

*Patient Expectations of Intensive Management*

The study was approved by the Edgbaston Research Ethics Committee (REC Ref 13/WM/0361). All patients gave written informed consent.

*Patient and Clinician Views on The Quality Of Foot Health Care For Rheumatoid Arthritis*

The research and development office at King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust confirmed ethical committee approval was not required for this service evaluation.

**TITRATE Trial: Main Trial and Extension Study**

The trial and extension study were approved by the London – West London & GTAC National Research Ethics Service (NRES) Committee (REC Ref 13/LO1308). All patients gave written informed consent. The trial was registered as ISRCTN 70160382. The trial assessed a treatment strategy rather than any particular drug therapy and all treatments will be used within their current marketing authorisation. Consequently, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency decided the trial did not meet their criteria for a Clinical Trial of an Investigational Medicinal Product (CTIMP) and that TITRATE was a non-CTIMP trial.

*TITRATE Trial: Patient Expectations Sub-Study*

This study was nested within the main trial. Ethics approval for the patient sub study was obtained from West London & GTAC Research Ethics Committee (Reference: 13/LO/1308) on 3rd December 2014. The interviews with the practitioners were considered a service evaluation, therefore, ethical approval was not required for these.