Subject: Specialised Services Circular (SSC 2596)
Sent on behalf of: Chair of the SW Specialised Service Circular Group

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the following Specialised Services Circular(s):

SSC Number	SSC Title	Trusts approved to prescribe in accordance with the SSC, providing appropriate internal governance arrangements are in place
2596	**Clinical Commissioning Policy: Infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis (excluding neurosarcoidosis) (adults) [2204]**	University Hospital Bristol and Weston NHS FT North Bristol NHS Trust Royal Devon University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS FT

Is an implementation plan required from all SW trusts (regardless of commissioned status) for this SSC? No

For all other South West region trusts this is for information only.

Trusts should ensure that use is registered on the Blueteq system (if appropriate).

Treatment will only be funded where the drugs minimum dataset is fully and accurately populated.

Please direct any queries to: england.speccomm-southwest@nhs.net

Specialised Commissioning South West
NHS England
360 Bristol
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NX
Email: england.speccomm-southwest@nhs.net

28 December 2023

All Chief Executives

All Medical Directors

All Chief Pharmacists

Dear Colleagues,

Clinical Commissioning Policy: Infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis (excluding neurosarcoidosis) (adults) [2204]

This letter is to inform you that NHS England has reviewed the evidence for the use of Infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis in adults (excluding neurosarcoidosis). We have concluded that there is sufficient evidence to make this available to patients who fulfil the inclusion criteria within the published policy. The policy is restricted to adults in line with the findings from the evidence review. Infliximab may be used in children aged six years and older via NHS England's Policy 170001/P Commissioning Medicines for Children in Specialised Services (commissioning medicines children).

Note that infliximab is not licenced for sarcoidosis and therefore this is an off-label use.

Due to the small number of patients anticipated to meet the criteria (approx. 200 adults per year) this treatment will be commissioned and funded by NHS England for treatment in the specialised rheumatology and interstitial lung disease services as listed within the Manual of Prescribed Services.

The published policy can be found here:
NHS England » Clinical commissioning policy: infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis (excluding neurosarcoidosis)

In Addition:

- Trusts must ensure that they are purchasing Infliximab in line with the Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU) procurement framework.
- Trusts must ensure that only invoices for the drug procurement costs of infliximab in this indication are invoiced to NHSE and that they are also submitting complete and accurate information via the minimum dataset (MDS). All other on cost are in block arrangements.
- In line with the terms and conditions included in the NHS Standard Contract, Schedule 6a Reporting Requirements for drugs will apply. Payment of Trust

invoices will be contingent on the completion of the MDS record and this information being made available in a timely way.

- Patients must be registered via Blueteq and meet the clinical criteria on the registration form. This letter gives the required one month's notice as per Schedule 2 Part G (Other Local Agreements, Policies and Procedures) of your Specialised Services contract for prior approval for this treatment/indication. From one month of the date specified above, NHS England will only reimburse these treatments for patients that have been confirmed as meeting the eligibility criteria via the formal Prior Approval Scheme (i.e. Blueteq). You may wish to use the prior approval mechanism earlier than this to expedite access to this drug.
- **Payment of Trust invoices will be contingent on Blueteq registration, the full MDS record applicable to the drug being completed and this information being made available in a timely way. [Please note there are different Blueteq registration forms for adults and children].**
- Trusts must ensure that local governance aspects (e.g. technical issues, education & training, patient information) have been identified and addressed for all staff groups (as appropriate) in order to permit the safe delivery of this therapy.

Trusts should refer to the CAP portal for further information on the PAS price. The CAP portal is available at https://nhsengland.sharefile.eu/Authentication/Login

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to relevant clinical and contracting teams to aid awareness and implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Culverwell
Deputy Director of Specialised Commissioning

Tracey Williams
Principal Pharmacist