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Dear Colleagues

Re: NICE Technology Appraisal Final Appraisal Determination: polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

I am writing to advise you regarding the funding position on the recently published NICE Technology Appraisal Final Appraisal Determination (FAD) for polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

The FAD can be found at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ta10463

NICE in their FAD published on 20th August 2020 has stated that:

> Polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine is recommended, within its marketing authorisation, as an option for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma in adults who cannot have a haematopoietic stem cell transplant

Polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine will be available via the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) from 20th August 2020 in line with these recommendations and according to a set of treatment criteria which translates the NICE recommendation into a clinical guide as to use in practice. These treatment criteria can be found on the national CDF list at https://www.england.nhs.uk/cancer/cdf/cancer-drugs-fund-list/ or on the application form(s) on the Blueteq site.

NHS England will then routinely commission polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine in patients with relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma who cannot have a haematopoietic stem cell transplant, incorporating these treatment criteria, including those contained within this letter from 30 days after the day of publication of the final guidance.

In addition:

- Trusts must ensure that they are purchasing polatuzumab vedotin at the agreed proposed patient access scheme (PAS) discounted price. This discounted price will be applied automatically at point of invoice and applies to all indications.

- Trusts must ensure that any patients registered on the EAMS programme who meet the clinical criteria for the drug are registered via Blueteq in order for the CDF to pick up the costs of their ongoing treatment. Patients who do not meet the clinical criteria should continue to receive drug via the manufacturer.

- All patients who have received polatuzumab vedotin as bridging therapy for patients approved for CAR-T therapy, both before and after apheresis as part of interim COVID-19 funding (see NICE 'COVID-19 rapid guideline: Delivery of systemic anticancer treatments' https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng161) must be transferred to CDF funding. Providers are therefore required to ensure that prescribers re-register these patients via Blueteq using form POL1 as this NICE guidance supersedes the Interim COVID-19 funding

- Trusts must ensure that, until 30 days after publication of the final guidance from NICE, only invoices for the drug procurement costs of polatuzumab vedotin in this indication are directed to the CDF and that they are also submitting complete and accurate information via the CDF minimum dataset (MDS).

- In line with the terms and conditions included in the NHS Standard Contract and as per the agreement that Cancer Services are commissioned with Trusts, 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.

- Trusts must ensure they are registering polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine use on SACT. The SACT dataset is a mandated dataset as part of the Health and Social Care Information Standards. This is listed as a Schedule 6 national information requirement within the NHS Standard Contract.

- Patients must be registered via Blueteq (POL1) and meet the clinical criteria on the registration form during the interim funding period. Please note the form code for the polatuzumab vedotin EAMS was POL01 and should not be used.

- Trusts must ensure polatuzumab vedotin is prescribed using the standardised dose bands listed in the NHS England National Dose Banding Table – Polatuzumab vedotin 20mg/ml -which is available at

https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/npc-crg/group-b/b02/dose-banded-chemotherapy-standardised-product-specifications

- **Payment of Trust invoices will be contingent on Blueteq registration, the full SACT and CDF MDS record applicable to the drug being completed and this information being made available in timely way.**
- 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 you could cascade this information to relevant clinical teams within your organisation to support the consistent adoption of the policy nationally.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Williams
Principal Pharmacist