

Subject: Specialised Services Circular (SSC 2577)
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
2577	Subcutaneous copper histidinate injections for presymptomatic neonates with classical Menkes disease	University Hospitals Bristol and Weston 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

17 November 2023

All Chief Executives

All Medical Directors

All Chief Pharmacists

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Subcutaneous copper histidinate injections for presymptomatic neonates with classical Menkes disease

I am writing to let you know about the commissioning arrangements for subcutaneous copper histidinate injections for presymptomatic neonates with classical Menkes disease. There is an urgent policy statement in place for this drug, this policy statement replaces the urgent one. NHS England commissions this treatment from the date of publication of the urgent clinical commissioning policy statement. The Clinical Commissioning Policy can be found at: [NHS England » Clinical commissioning policy: Subcutaneous copper histidinate injections for presymptomatic neonates with classical Menkes disease](#)

NHS England will commission this drug from trusts with the appropriate metabolic services in place.

This policy should be used in conjunction Metabolic disorders: Metabolic Disorders (Children) E06/S/b service specification <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/e06-metab-disorders-child.pdf>

If your Trust does not meet the definition of a specialised centre and/or cannot meet the conditions within this letter and patients may benefit from the intervention, then you should consider onward referral to a specialist centre as described below.

This drug will be commissioned only in the Nine specialised metabolic paediatric centres set out below:

- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS FT
- Birmingham Women's and Children Hospitals NHS FT

- Manchester University NHS FT
- The Evelina Children's Hospital, Guy's and St Thomas Hospital NHS FT
- Alder Hey Children's NHS FT
- Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS FT
- Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS FT
- The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT

NHS England will only reimburse this treatment for patients that have been confirmed as meeting the eligibility criteria via the formal prior approval scheme (i.e. Blueteq).

All Trusts will be required to:

- Be commissioned by NHS England for the provision of recommendations included in the policy to ensure appropriate contractual arrangements are in place
- Comply with treatment indications as defined in the clinical commissioning policy
- Register and comply with data collection required for the prescribing of high-cost drugs (Blueteq)
- Purchase the intervention at the approved discounted price where this applies
- In line with the terms and conditions included in the NHS Standard Contract and as per the agreement that 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.

For Specialised Commissioning tariff-excluded high-cost drugs, regions will contract with providers on the following basis in 2023/24:

- drugs categorised as 'block' (that is, not volatile in terms of uptake) will be added to the fixed element of the contract
- drugs categorised as 'cost and volume' will be given a notional baseline (based on 2021/22 spend) in the fixed element of the contract with under or over performance subject to variable payment.

Copper hisdinate is categorised as a high-cost drug to be reimbursed under the cost and volume process.

Providers should engage with their local specialised commissioning team to consider the implications of implementing this guidance.

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,



Luke Culverwell
Deputy Director of Specialised
Commissioning



Tracey Williams
Clinical Pharmacist