Subject: Specialised Services Circular (SSC 2676)
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
2676	NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance: Voxelotor for treating haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease [TA981].	• University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

Is an implementation plan required for this SSC? NO

For all other SouthWest 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
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BS1 3NX
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4 July 2024

All Chief Executives

All Medical Directors

All Chief Pharmacists

NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance: Voxelotor for treating haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease [TA981]

Re: NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance: Voxelotor for treating haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease [TA981].

I am writing to advise you regarding the funding position on the recently published NICE Technology Appraisal, TA981, for the treatment of haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease.

The TA can be found at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta981

NICE in their TA published on 12 June 2024 has stated that:

Voxelotor, with or without hydroxycarbamide, is recommended as an option for treating haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease in people 12 years and over. It is recommended only if:

- people are ineligible for, or intolerant of hydroxycarbamide, or
- hydroxycarbamide alone is insufficiently effective.

Voxelotor is only recommended if the company provides it according to the commercial arrangement.

Voxelotor will be routinely commissioned from 12 July 2024 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. Approval from a Haemoglobinopathy Coordinating Centre (HCC) multidisciplinary team meeting should be in place prior to starting this treatment. Following approval, delivery of treatment can be undertaken at a Specialist Haemoglobinopathy Team (SHT) or a Local Haemoglobinopathy Team (LHT).

In addition:

- Trusts must ensure that they are purchasing voxelotor at the agreed patient access scheme (PAS) discounted price. This discounted price will be applied automatically at point of invoice and applies to all indications.
- The discounted price paid by Trusts remains the same as the existing discounted price.
- Trusts must ensure that any patients registered on the EAMS programme who meet the clinical criteria for the drug are re-registered via Blueteq in order for NHSE to pick up the costs of their ongoing treatment. Patients re-registered via the IMF Blueteq form do not need to be re-registered again. Patients who do not meet the clinical criteria should continue to receive drug via the manufacturer.
- Trusts must ensure that only invoices for the drug procurement costs of voxelotor 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 costs are in block arrangements.
- 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.
- Patients must be registered via Blueteq (initiation and continuation forms) 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 SACT and CDF MDS record applicable to the drug being completed and this information being made available in a 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,

Luke Culverwell
Deputy Director of Specialised Commissioning

Tracey Williams
Principle Pharmacist