Subject: Specialised Services Circular (SSC)
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
2727	**Urgent Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms**	All South West Acute Trusts

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

Please note that drug procurement costs of peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b are within the 'block' fixed element of the contract.

All Chief Executives

All Medical Directors

All Chief Pharmacists

Specialised Commissioning South West
NHS England
100 Temple Street
Bristol
BS1 6AG
Email: england.speccomm-southwest@nhs.net

25 October 2024

Dear Colleagues,

NHSE England: Urgent Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms

Re: NHS England Urgent Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms

I am writing to advise you regarding the funding position on the recently published NHS England Urgent Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy (CCP) for treatment of myeloproliferative neoplasms. This policy has been developed in response to known supply disruption of peginterferon alfa-2a which is expected to continue until July 2025. The policy will be reviewed if supply circumstances change or there is a recognised need, including when ropeginterferon alfa-2b as a treatment for polycythaemia vera without symptomatic splenomegaly is appraised by NICE.

The CCP can be found at: NHS England » Urgent interim commissioning policy: Peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms

Peginterferon alfa-2a and ropeginterferon alfa-2b will be routinely commissioned from 23rd October in line with the criteria detailed in the NHS England CCP.

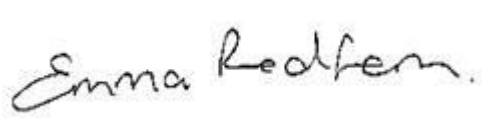
In addition, NHS England will commission peginterferon alfa-2a in children aged 3 years and over, or ropeginterferon alfa-2a in post-pubescent children, where either peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a is used in accordance with the NHS England policy 'Commissioning medicines for children in specialised services'. In this setting peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a should only be requested by and administered in CTYA specialist treatment centres and the use of peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a should be discussed at a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting which must include at least two consultants in the subspecialty with active and credible expertise in the relevant field of whom at least one must be a consultant paediatrician. The MDT should include a paediatric pharmacist and other professional groups appropriate to the disease area. Separate Blueteq registration forms for registration of adults and children have been made available. It should also be noted that peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a should be used within the Trusts governance framework as peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a are not licensed for the treatment of myeloproliferative neoplasms in children.

In addition:

- Trusts must ensure that only invoices for the drug procurement costs of peginterferon alfa-2a or ropeginterferon alfa-2a in these indications are invoiced to NHSE and that they are also submitting complete and accurate information via the drugs 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 and the full drugs MDS record applicable to the drugs 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.

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.

With best wishes,



Emma Redfern
Medical Director NHS England South West Region

Tracey Williams
Principal Pharmacist