Subject: Specialised Services Circular (SSC 2685)
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
2685	NICE Technology Appraisal Final Draft Guidance: Pembrolizumab with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for untreated HER2-negative advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma	• All SouthWest Provider

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

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2 August 2024

All Chief Executives

All Medical Directors

All Chief Pharmacists

Re: NICE Technology Appraisal Final Draft Guidance: Pembrolizumab with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for untreated HER2-negative advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma

I am writing to advise you regarding the funding position on the recently published NICE Technology Appraisal Final Draft Guidance (FDG) for pembrolizumab with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for untreated HER2-negative advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma.

The FDG can be found at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ta11039

NICE in their FDG published on 26th July 2024 has stated that:

> Pembrolizumab with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy is recommended, within its marketing authorisation, as an option for untreated locally advanced unresectable or metastatic HER2-negative gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma in adults whose tumours express PD-L1 with a combined positive score (CPS) of 1 or more.

Pembrolizumab will be available via the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) from 26th 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. 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 pembrolizumab for untreated HER2-negative advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma, incorporating these treatment criteria, including those contained within this letter from 90 days after the day of publication of the final guidance.

In addition:

- Trusts must ensure that they are purchasing pembrolizumab 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 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
- Trusts must ensure that, until 90 days after publication of the final guidance from NICE, only invoices for the drug procurement costs of pembrolizumab in this indication are directed to the CDF and that they are also submitting complete and accurate information via the CDF minimum dataset (MDS).
- Trusts must ensure that all agents in this combination are prescribed using the standardised dose bands listed in the NHS England National Dose Banding Table available at https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/npc-crg/group-b/b02/dose-banded-chemotherapy-standardised-product-specifications
- 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 pembrolizumab 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 (PEMB29) and meet the clinical criteria on the registration form during the interim funding period.
- **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.

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