

Northern Treatment Advisory Group: 2nd Annual Report, May 2016

Chairman's foreword

NTAG has continued to meet regularly as a forum of experts to ensure that consistent and considered recommendations are made to Clinical Commissioning Groups on the adoption of new treatment pathways for patients in the North East and Cumbria.

The group has continued to make recommendations to ensure clinically effective treatments are adopted locally ensuring the best use of NHS resources for the delivery of patient care.

The importance of the role of NTAG and similar regional bodies has been acknowledged recently with the proposal by the Chief Pharmacist for England to establish 4 Regional Medicine Optimisation Committees in the autumn of 2016. The role of NTAG will need to be reassessed if and when these proposals progress.

I would like to thank the members of NTAG and the expert advisors who contribute to the detailed treatment appraisals for the work they have done on this important and complex agenda.

Dr Ian Davidson,
Director of Quality and Safety
NHS North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Appraisal and Recommendations

During the financial year 2015/16 the group produced 11 new recommendations and re-reviewed 2 previous NETAG recommendations. As per the groups terms of reference the group has concentrated on non-NICE high cost specialist drugs or treatments. There were also 3 recommendations issued on biosimilar molecules which are a more recent addition to the new medicines normally considered. The group is also increasingly being asked to issue recommendations on prescribable devices. See table for further details.

All recommendations are based upon proven clinical outcomes, value for money and affordability.

Title	Recommendation
Teriparatide for atypical fractures	Not recommended
Infliximab biosimilars	Recommended for new and existing patients
Certolizumab pegol	Recommended as an option

(Cimzia®) for the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis	
Sequential use of TNF inhibitors for the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis	Recommended as an option
Evolocumab	Not recommended – await NICE guidance
Alirocumab	Not recommended – await NICE guidance
Insulin Glargine Biosimilar (Abasaglar®)	Recommended for new and existing patients.
Insulin Glargine 300 units per ml (Toujeo®)	Recommended
Transanal Irrigation Systems. device	Recommended as an option
e-Voke® electronic cigarette. device	Not recommended
Etanercept Biosimilar (Benepali®)	Recommended for new and existing patients
Orthotic functional electrical stimulation (FES) for drop foot of neurological origin (updated) device	As an option for patients who fulfil all of the specific criteria
OmniPod® CSII system for diabetes (update) device	Recommended as an option for new patients

All of the above recommendations and their associated appraisal documents can be accessed via the NTAG website.

Membership

The group is now well established and following a review of attendance in April 15, quoracy has been maintained throughout the year. Representation has been drawn from throughout NHS North East & Cumbria, both geographically and strategically (i.e. primary and specialist care, providers and commissioners). Patient representation has been difficult to achieve due to the specialist nature of drugs or treatments reviewed by NTAG however other avenues for patient input are currently being explored.

Work plan

The majority of appraisals have been conducted following a referral or request to the group with a minority identified prospectively through horizon scanning processes. The current work plan is available on the website and is updated following each meeting should any changes be made. The group also continues to receive requests to re-review old NETAG

recommendations that are now out of date.

Further information

This is the 2nd annual report for NTAG and covers the period of April 2015 to April 2016.

The NTAG website serves as the primary source of information for NTAG. However further details can be provided by the professional secretary:

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