North East Treatment Advisory Group

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	12th July 2011
Appraisal	Novel oromucosal (Abstral®, Effentora®) and nasal (Instanyl®) fentanyl for breakthrough pain associated with cancer: Updated appraisal including nasal fentanyl (PecFent®)
Details	The North East Treatment Advisory Group undertook a reappraisal of the novel fentanyl products with the inclusion of an additional product at the request of the Palliative Care Clinical Group of the North of England Cancer Network.
Recommendation	**The North East Treatment Advisory Group does not recommend the novel fentanyl analgesics (Abstral®, Effentora®, Instanyl® and PecFent®) for breakthrough pain associated with cancer.**
Clinical evidence summary	The group was satisfied with the analgesic efficacy of the fentanyl products but noted that comparative data was lacking or otherwise compromised. The group was concerned about the complexity of dose titration and the potential practical and safety implications.
Cost analysis summary	The group was not satisfied that the cost-effectiveness of the novel fentanyl products had been adequately demonstrated compared with other strong opiate analgesics commonly used for breakthrough pain associated with cancer. The group observed that expected costs per episode of pain ranged from £5 to £6, compared with less than £1 for non-fentanyl opiate analgesics.
Financial impact	The group noted that implementation of their previous recommendation appears to be good with overall low levels of prescribing of the novel fentanyl products across all NHS organisations within NHS North East. The impact of the updated recommendation is expected to maintain prescribing of the novel fentanyl analgesics at low levels with minimal financial impact.
Further research or information	