

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	13 th July 2010	
Appraisal	Agomelatine (Valdoxan®▼) in the management of depression	
Details	An appeal was made of the NETAG recommendation (October 2009) regarding the use of agomelatine within its licensed indication for the treatment of major depressive episodes in adults.	
Recommendation	<p>Agomelatine (Valdoxan®▼) is recommended for the treatment of depression only following an adequate trial* of at least three alternative antidepressant drugs at maximally tolerated doses.</p> <p>Prescribing and monitoring should be initiated by specialist mental health physicians. After a minimum of 12 week's treatment, responsibility for prescribing may be transferred to primary care subject to local shared care and commissioning arrangements.</p> <p>* As described by NICE and as stated in the BNF</p>	
Clinical evidence summary	The appeal was made regarding the position of the treatment in pathways and a requirement for prescribing to remain wholly within specialist care. Both arguments were given full consideration. The group considered that a fourth-line or subsequent position reflected the known efficacy and safety of agomelatine and the availability of numerous other antidepressant drugs with established safety profiles at lower acquisition costs.	
Cost analysis summary	Due to the availability of numerous commonly used antidepressant drugs from generic manufacturers at low acquisition cost and the quality of evidence demonstrating differences in efficacy or tolerability between agomelatine and other antidepressants, it was considered that agomelatine should be considered a low priority in treatment pathways.	
Financial impact	PCT	
	County Durham	<p>No reliable cost estimates per PCT were possible.</p> <p>Many commonly used antidepressant drugs are available from generic manufacturers at low acquisition cost. Consequently, the cost of agomelatine is relatively high compared to many other antidepressant drugs.</p> <p>The mean cost per patient per month is estimated at £55 based on mean daily doses.</p>
	Darlington	
	Gateshead	
	Hartlepool	
	Middlesbrough	
	Newcastle	
	North Tees	
	North Tyneside	
	Northumberland Care	
	Redcar & Cleveland	
	South Tyneside	
Sunderland Teaching		
Further research or information	Local medicines management teams, or similar, should ensure compliance with this treatment recommendation. This recommendation supersedes the group's earlier recommendation of October 2009 (ref AGO-MDD-OCT09).	

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