



Northern Treatment
Advisory Group

Northern Treatment Advisory Group: 8th Annual Report, June 2022

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 treatments for patients in the North East, North Cumbria and parts of North Yorkshire.

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

NTAG has also continued to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Going forward NTAG will be reviewing and updating its remit plus terms of reference as it seeks to establish itself as key part of the local ICS structures and processes around medicines optimisation at an ICS level.

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,
Medical Director
NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Appraisal and Recommendations

During the financial year 2021/22 the group produced one new recommendation and re-reviewed twelve previous NTAG recommendations. Two recommendations were also archived as now superseded by NICE TA or NHSE guidance. As per the groups terms of reference the group has concentrated on non-NICE high cost specialist drugs or treatments. The group is also increasingly being asked to issue recommendations on prescribable devices. These are often more complex there is no clear evidence of benefit for patients, as the clinical data available does not have to be as rigorous as licensed medicines. There continue to be referrals directly from the IFR panels, this link is key in establishing a good process for review of drugs or treatments that are being requested frequently (>5) across the region. Often the drugs and treatments for which requests are made have no national guidelines or

recommendations available to guide use. Where the evidence is not clear criteria have been developed to aid IFR panels in their decisions.

The group is also keen to develop a good relationship with specialists and hopes to add to the data available for some treatments by encouraging audit and review of less commonly used treatments.

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

Title	Recommendation
Ulipristal (Ellaone®) for post-coital (up to 120 hours) contraception	Reviewed and added links to FSRH Guidance. No other changes made.
Pitolisant (Wakix®) for the treatment of narcolepsy with or without cataplexy in adults	Reviewed and added reference to NICE TA for Solriamfetol. No other changes made.
i-Port Advance® for use in children and adults with Type 1 diabetes	Reviewed and no changes made. Remains not approved for use in Type 2 diabetes.
Alfapump® device for the treatment of ascites due to Liver Cirrhosis	Reviewed and no changes made.
Actipatch® for management of localised musculoskeletal pain	Reviewed and no changes made that not recommended.
Buprenorphine prolonged release injection for opioid dependence	Recommended as alternative option for the management of opioid dependence after oral methadone and/or oral buprenorphine
Lurasidone (Latuda®▼) for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults and adolescents aged 13 years and over	Reviewed and updated. Now recommended as an option only for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults and adolescents aged 13 years and older meeting the criteria in the recommendation
Perampanel (Fycompa®) for Partial-onset (focal) epilepsy	Reviewed and updated to now also recommend use in younger age group following license extension.
Transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation for treatment of cluster headache and migraine	Updated to reflect changes in funding arrangements. No other changes made.

Dupilumab and Omalizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps	Remain not recommended for use ahead of NICE TA.
Daily vs on-demand PDE-5 inhibitors for management of erectile dysfunction following treatment for prostate cancer	Reviewed and use of once daily tadalafil now included as an additional option.
Transanal Irrigation Systems (TAIs) for neurogenic bowel dysfunction, chronic constipation, and chronic faecal incontinence	Reviewed and updated to reflect changes in Peristeen brand. No other changes made
Infliximab Subcutaneous (Remsima®)	Recommended as an option during Covid-19 Pandemic. To be reviewed again once ICS structures and Tariff arrangements confirmed post-pandemic.

All of the above recommendations can be accessed via the NTAG website.

Membership

The group is now well established and. Representation has been drawn from throughout NHS North East & Cumbria, both geographically and strategically (i.e. primary and specialist care, providers and commissioners.)

Work plan

The majority of appraisals have been identified prospectively through horizon scanning processes with a minority identified following a referral or request to the group by APCs or IFR panels. The current work plan is available on the website and is updated following each meeting should any changes be made.

Impact of NTAG Recommendations on Prescribing Data

During 2021/22 NTAG reviewed the impact of its recommendations since 2017 on prescribing data in primary care. The purpose of this was to monitor the update and compliance with NTAG recommendations across the region. Where prescribing appeared differ to the NTAG recommendation in primary care this was fed back to the appropriate CCG Medicines Optimisation Team for further investigation.

Further information

This is the 8th annual report for NTAG and covers the period of April 2021 to March 2022.

The group will continue to review its remit following the establishment of Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees

(RMOCs) however currently the RMOCs have a slightly different remit to NTAG with NTAG concentrating on the review of high cost drugs and treatments.

NTAG will continue to review its accountability arrangements and remit as NHS structures change within the region as ICS level commissioning establishes itself.

A new updated NTAG website with a refreshed look was launched in September 2021. 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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