

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 16/11

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: NICE Technology Appraisal TA 202 -
Ofatumumab for the Treatment of Chronic
Lymphocytic Leukaemia Refractory to Fludarabine
and Alemtuzumab**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 16/11

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

- Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement
- Director of Commissioning
- Assistant Directors of Commissioning
- Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
- Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
- Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**

- Director of Public Health
- Director of Nursing

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

- Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
- Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
- Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant
- staff
- Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
- HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

- Chair of HSC Board
- Chair of Public Health Agency
- Chairs of HSC Trusts
- Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
- Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
- Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
- Chief Executive, NICPLD
- Chief Executive, NIPEC
- Chair, RMSG

Summary of contents:

Ofatumumab is not recommended for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia that is refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

- Standards & Guidelines Quality Unit
- DHSSPS
- Room D1.4
- Castle Buildings
- Stormont Estate
- BELFAST
- BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Date of Issue: 17 May 2011

Related documents:

See Point 5 below

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

To implement this guidance with immediate effect

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance.htm>

Working for a Healthier People

Chief Medical Officer Group



Dear Colleagues

NICE Technology Appraisal TA202 – Ofatumumab for the Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Refractory to Fludarabine and Alemtuzumab

Ofatumumab is not recommended for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia that is refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab.

People currently receiving ofatumumab for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia that is refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab should have the option to continue treatment until they and their clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC.

The full NICE guidance is available for download at:

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA202>

The HSC sector should also note that:

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to implement this guidance with immediate effect;
2. NICE does not recommend ofatumumab for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia that is refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab therefore implementing the guidance in NI is unlikely to have a significant impact on resources;
3. This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case;
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA202> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
5. NICE has published related guidance listed on page 2 of the NICE Quick Reference Guide which can be accessed at:
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA202/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English>
6. **All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at:** <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance>

Circular HSS (SQSD) (NICE) 01/06 issued on 30 June 2006 provides further information on the Northern Ireland process for reviewing NICE guidance and further details on the local status of the Institute's guidance. This circular can be accessed at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf

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