

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 19/10 TA 181

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 181 –
Pemetrexed for the First-Line Treatment of Non-
Small- Cell Lung Cancer**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 19/10 TA 181

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: Pemetrexed is recommended as a possible treatment for locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) when certain criteria are met.

Enquiries:

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

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

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Date of Issue: 21 September 2010

Related documents:

See Bullet Point 4 below

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

Put plans in place within 3 months of this endorsement circular to facilitate implementation of this guidance

Additional copies:

Available to download from

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

Dear Colleagues

Technology Appraisal 181 – Pemetrexed for the First-Line Treatment of Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer

Pemetrexed is recommended as a possible treatment for locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) if:

- the cancer is a particular type (adenocarcinoma or large-cell carcinoma) **and**
- the person has not had any treatment for NSCLC before.

Healthcare professionals should not stop prescribing pemetrexed for people who do not have adenocarcinoma or large-cell carcinoma who were already taking it when the guidance was issued. These people should be able to carry on taking pemetrexed until they and their specialist decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

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/TA181>

The HSC sector should also note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to put plans in place within 3 months of this endorsement circular, to facilitate implementation of this guidance.
2. 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.
3. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA181> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
4. NICE has published, and is currently developing, related guidance as listed on page 2 of the NICE Quick Reference Guide which can be accessed at: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA181/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English>
5. **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 (PPMD) (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://dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf

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