

NEWS DIGEST

- NICE does not recommend elusulfase alfa for NHS use following evaluation of new evidence
- NICE approves first long-acting injectable HIV-1 treatment
- NHS England releases long-awaited details on the Innovative Medicines Fund (IMF)
- New NHS stroke treatment drug agreement could save 5,000 a year

NICE DOES NOT RECOMMEND ELUSULFASE ALFA FOR NHS USE FOLLOWING EVALUATION OF NEW EVIDENCE

THE NEWS

NICE has recently published draft guidance for public consultation which does not recommend elosulfase alfa (also called Vimizin and made by BioMarin) for the treatment of mucopolysaccharidosis type 4A (also known as MPS 4A and Morquio A syndrome).

The guidance follows an evaluation of new evidence on the use of elosulfase alfa through research and the collection of 'real-world' data as part of a managed access agreement which has made the treatment available on the NHS since 2015.

THE IMPACT

NICE concluded that the company's cost-effectiveness modelling is not robust, or plausible, particularly because it does not adequately capture disease progression. They were also concerned about how the 'real world' data was used to model long-term wheelchair use, how the quality-of-life values of patients and carers were captured and the assumptions made about body weight and drug dose.

Despite offering additional quality adjusted life years (QALYs) and therefore being assessed against a maximum threshold up to £300,000 per QALY, the concerns around the modelling and its high cost mean the cost-effectiveness estimates for elosulfase alfa are much higher than NICE considers acceptable for highly specialised technologies.

source: <https://bit.ly/3nHdLFS>



NICE APPROVES FIRST LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE HIV-1 TREATMENT

THE NEWS

NICE has published draft guidance recommending the first long-acting injectable treatment for HIV-1 infection in adults.

Current treatment for HIV-1 is lifelong antiretroviral tablets taken each day. The aim is to keep the number of virus particles in the blood (the viral load) so low that it cannot be detected or transmitted between people.

It is estimated that around 13,000 people will now be eligible for treatment with cabotegravir with rilpivirine in England.

THE IMPACT

Deputy Chief Executive and Director of NICE said, "We're pleased therefore to be able to recommend cabotegravir with rilpivirine as a valuable treatment option for people who already have good levels of adherence to daily tablets, but who might prefer an injectable regimen with less frequent dosing."

source: <https://bit.ly/3FFPMNz>



NHS ENGLAND RELEASE LONG-AWAITED DETAILS ON THE INNOVATIVE MEDICINES FUND (IMF)

RECENTLY PUBLISHED...

NHS England has finally released details on the new Innovative Medicines Fund (IMF), a £340m managed access fund similar to the pre-existing Cancer Drugs Fund.

Where NICE is unable to recommend a medicine for routine use in the NHS because it needs further data to resolve the outstanding clinical uncertainty, the IMF has the potential to significantly benefit patients by opening the opportunity for them to access promising new medicines whilst this data is collected.

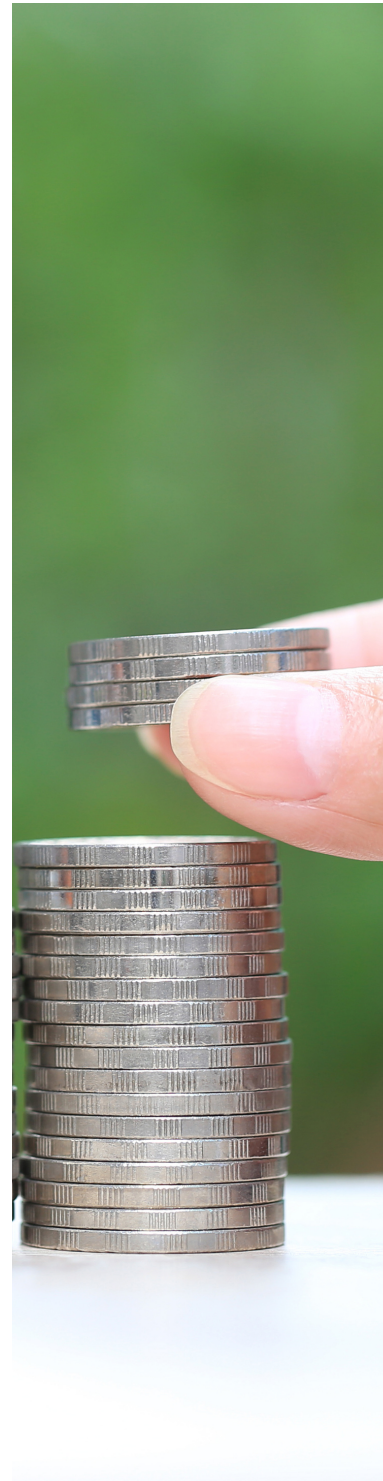
There are 8 guiding principles to underpin the role of the IMF.

A managed access agreement will be required between the NHS and the manufacturer, consisting of two parts: a time-limited data collection agreement and a patient access scheme and/or a commercial access agreement to ensure value to taxpayers.

Companies interested must engage with NICE as only the institute will be able to recommend a medicine for inclusion in the IMF. Eligible drugs must:

- Address an unmet need
- Provide significant clinical benefits
- Demonstrate the potential to be cost-effective at the offered price
- Generate evidence considered meaningful and sufficiently reduce uncertainty

source: <https://bit.ly/3l1xL4g>



NEW NHS STROKE TREATMENT DRUG AGREEMENT COULD SAVE 5,000 A YEAR

THE NEWS

The Chief Executive of the NHS, Amanda Pritchard, has announced a deal on a lifesaving treatment, expanding the health service's use of drugs designed to stop blood clots. This deal will see more patients having access to treatment which could prevent 21,700 strokes and 5,400 deaths.

The drugs prevent strokes by treating and preventing blood clots in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF), a condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate.

THE IMPACT

The usual treatment to prevent blood clots requires patients to attend their GP or hospital regularly, but with the introduction of these new drugs, patients will only be required to go to hospital once a year.

Amanda said "The health service now has a proven track record of striking deals with manufacturers to ensure patients in England get cutting-edge care at a price which offers best value for taxpayers."

source: <https://bit.ly/3r3KGGY>



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Paul Craddy
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