



Access to new medicines in the NHS

A guide to Individual Patient Treatment Requests

What is this factsheet about?

You have been given this factsheet because your doctor has requested a medicine for your condition that has not been recommended for use in NHS Scotland by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC). The SMC carries out an evaluation of the clinical and cost effectiveness of all new medicines and advises Health Boards on their use in NHS Scotland. Further information on this process and reasons why medicines might not be approved can be found at: www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/Public_Involvement/Public_Involvement

This factsheet explains what happens next.

Your doctor may believe that your individual clinical circumstances are different **and** you are more likely to benefit from a medicine than others with the same condition. If this is the case, there is a system in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GG&C) that your doctor may follow.

My doctor wants me to get a medicine that is not recommended for use in the NHS in Scotland. What happens next?

Your doctor may complete an individual patient treatment request (IPTR) form. This form will give details of why your doctor thinks you should receive the medicine. This request will be assessed by a panel of healthcare professionals and they will decide if your treatment should be funded on the NHS.

Who decides if my treatment request is accepted or rejected?

The treatment request will be considered by a panel of healthcare professionals including a senior doctor, pharmacist and a manager within NHS GG&C.

What does this panel consider?

Your doctor will explain why your individual clinical circumstances are different and why you are more likely to benefit from the medicine than others with the same condition. The submission will include a description of your case as well as details of any published clinical

trials or evidence that support these points. The panel will consider all the information provided as well as, in some cases, independently prepared information for this medicine when used for your condition.

Do I get any say?

You have the right to submit a written statement to go with the IPTR form if you wish. Your doctor can provide you with further details on how to do this.

How long will it take to hear about the treatment request?

The panel will consider the urgency of the request and come to a decision at the earliest opportunity. However it is the aim that the timescale for the decision to be made is no longer than 20 working days from when the IPTR was received.

How will I find out if my doctor's request has been successful?

Immediately after conclusion of the IPTR review, your doctor should be informed of the panel's decision. Your doctor will then communicate the decision to you. You will receive a copy of the IPTR decision paperwork and will be given information on what options there are if your request has been turned down.

My doctor's treatment request has been accepted. What happens now?

Your doctor can prescribe the medicine for you on the NHS.

My doctor's treatment request has been turned down. What happens next?

Your doctor will explain the reasons why the request has been turned down. He/she will then discuss with you any alternative treatment options. You and your doctor may also consider whether you believe there are grounds for an appeal. If you both believe this to be the case your doctor can appeal the decision. The appeal may reconsider the evidence

and / or may consider whether the appropriate process was followed in order to reach the original decision. This panel will have a different membership but its decision will be based the same criteria as before i.e. why your circumstances are different and why you are more likely to respond to the medicine. Unless both these criteria are met the treatment will not be prescribed.

The aim is that the panel decision will be made within 20 working days from when the appeal was received; this will be communicated to you by your doctor.

If there are no grounds for appeal or if the appeal is unsuccessful, you may wish to consider the option of paying for the medicine privately. This should only apply when all NHS options have been exhausted. Your doctor should be able to discuss the feasibility of this with you.

If national advice on the medicine should change to a position where it is accepted for use in NHS Scotland, your doctor will be able to prescribe the medicine. Also, if your clinical condition and circumstances change so that you become different from others with the same condition and more likely to benefit from the medicine, then your doctor may suggest a new IPTR application.

Where can I get further information/advice?

If you require help and advice, your doctor should be able to provide this. If however, you still have questions about this process or the appeals process, you may contact us by email:
medicines&prescribing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Information on the process that medicines go through before NHS doctors in Scotland can routinely prescribe them, can also be found at
<http://www.hris.org.uk/resources/new-medicines-pdf-factsheet/>