

Prescribing and Formulary Panel

Minutes of meeting held on September 8th 2020

The Oak MDT Room FKA The Old Board Room PEH

Present

Miss Geraldine O’Riordan, Prescribing Advisor and Chair (GOR)

Mrs Janine Clarke, Pharmacy Manager, HSC (JC)

Dr Paul Williams, Island Health Medical Practice (JR)

Dr Douglas Wilson, Queens Road Medical Practice (DW)

Dr Peter Gomes, Medical Specialist Group (PG)

Dr Tom Saunders, Medical Specialist Group (TS)

1: Absent/ Apologies for Absence

Dr Brink / Dr Mike McCarthy, Dr Hamish Duncan

2: Minutes

The minutes of the August 2020 meeting were approved.

Prescribing of branded buprenorphine

As an action from last month’s meeting GOR has checked Suboxone prescribing. This has fallen considerably in the last 12 months or so. Costs have fallen from about £11K per month plus fees to £4K per month plus fees. Dr Wright has been informed and will endeavour to further reduce branded buprenorphine prescribing, as the OST review recommended.

New Drugs

The following products were considered

Doxycycline MR : not approved due to lack of evidence of benefit over generic capsules and higher costs.

Anidulafungin : approved retrospectively for in-patients intolerant of capsosfungin and on the advice of Heartlands Microbiology only.

Levocarnitine : approved as per the request to keep it in stock in the hospital.

Sodium phenylbutyrate approved as per the request to keep it in stock.

Kaftrio^R There was a lengthy discussion about the costs vs benefit of this product, which is used in combination with Kalydeco. The main trial reported that people in the active arm had a 14.3% absolute improvement in FEV1 compared with people in the placebo arm over 24 weeks. Compared with Symkevi and Kalydeco over 4 weeks, there was a 10% absolute increase. However the costs are very high. After a discussion it was agreed to recommend it to HSC for approval.

Opicapone : This was approved as per the request, for specialist and second-line use in people intolerant of entacapone.

Posaconazole : This product was declined in view of the very high cost and the lack of evidence of superiority and safety in long-term use over itraconazole.

Pirfenidone reconsideration : The product is recommended only if the company sells it at the NHS discounted price or lower. A decision was deferred until the company advises what the discount will be and whether or not it is available to Guernsey.

Pregabalin reconsideration : This was again declined on the basis of the draft advice from NICE on Chronic Primary Pain, the availability of multiple other treatments on prescription for all types of pain and the abuse potential. The Prison MO and the lead CDAT Consultant both strongly advised against its approval in emails. The fact that it is available generically on a private prescription for the same or a slightly higher price than a prescription charge was noted.

Pembrolizumab reconsideration : It was unanimously agreed to recommend pembrolizumab as per TA531, as more mature data suggest that the ICER per QALY is now likely to be below the £30K threshold. However, NICE estimated that when used according to TA428, the ICER per QALY could be as high as £60K. Therefore with regret it was declined. However if/when more mature data become available this will be reconsidered immediately.

Actions on all of the above: GOR

AOB

- **Cannabis** : The Panel noted that a document on the private prescribing of cannabis was discussed at CRG and felt that it would have been preferable to have discussed it at the PFP first. For private importation, a doctor will be required to take clinical responsibility for its use before an import license will be issued. Members were somewhat uncomfortable with the concept of prescribing by a non-specialist.
- **Vitamin D in the coming winter** : it was agreed that national guidelines would continue to be followed on this. It is understood that Vitamin D won't be used or recommended for COVID-19 prevention or treatment as no evidence exists to support its use.

6: Dates of next meetings : Tuesday October 6th 2020, Tuesday November 3rd 2020