

Prescribing and Formulary Panel

Minutes of a meeting held at 5pm Tuesday APRIL 12th 2022 Oak MDT Room

Present

Geraldine O’Riordan, Prescribing Advisor and Chair

Paul Williams, Island Health Medical Practice

Douglas Wilson, Queens Road Medical Practice

Mike McCarthy, Healthcare Group

Tom Saunders, Medical Specialist Group

Apologies

Andrew Ward, Hospital Pharmacy Services Manager

Peter Gomes, Medical Specialist Group

Absent

Nikki Brink

Draft Minutes

The Draft minutes of the March 2022 meeting were approved

- **New Drugs : none**
- **Minor and/or cost-neutral additions to the Prescribing List**

Simbrinza^R eye drops was requested following an off-island NHS consultation, for a particularly complex case, by a local Consultant Ophthalmologist. The April Drug Tariff cost is £9.32 for 5mls. The total cost for 1 bottle of Brinzolamide 1% plus 1 bottle Brimonidine 0.2% = £4.34 plus one extra dispensing fee £1.80 approx. Both are available generically, so cheaper generic versions of the combination product may become available later in 2022. So this product was recommended for approval.

- **New NICE TAs**

The list of NICE TAs for this month was noted. TS commented that “automatic” approval of NICE TAs was not entered into any prioritisation process. GOR said that NHS discounts on all of the new TA drugs have been obtained. For three of the cancer drugs the total saving was £250K in 2021. Uptake had been lower than the estimates made at the time, but most of the non-cancer treatments are for

secondary care initiation only. Cost will have been significantly lower due to the size of these discounts. MMC said that, for areas where a lot of new drugs have been added in, it would be useful to have guidance on what could now be prescribed. Many more new lipid lowering treatments are now approved and one more, iclisaran, should be available in the next couple of months. GOR commented that there is a very clear NHS pathway on one page, and that secondary care will be contacted for their comments once the last new lipid lowering agent is approved.

In answer to a question by PW, GOR said that a report on year 1 will be included in the PSU annual report. All of the monthly dispensing data are collated into a register when the figures become available. This will be analysed in due course.

- **Private Chemotherapy Requests**

None

- **AOB**

BNF Update :

GOR said that there had been an unforeseen delay in accessing the electronic BNF. But that paper copies had been ordered and should be on the island shortly. MMC and DW said that they prefer the paper versions, but that their copies are now out of date. GOR said that the Chief Pharmacist acutely aware that this is unsatisfactory, and that it is possibly on the risk register..

Action: GOR

Primary Care Review

GOR said that as part of the above, the affordability of prescriptions for people under pensionable age on multiple prescriptions was being considered. The current dispensing system means that individual patients cannot be followed forward. PW noted that prescription costs were, for some patients, as high the consultation fee and that it was highly likely that some items are crossed off that are actually needed. One option being considered is pre-payment certificates, but that the cost would need to be estimated first. GOR asked if it would be possible for GP systems to advise on the number of patients below pensionable age, on five or more prescription items per month. Primary Care Representatives said that this should be. GOR to email the practices with firmer details.

Action: GOR

- **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday May 10th 5pm, Oak MDT Meeting Room