From Director of Hospital & Community Services
Brendan Whittle

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

By email

Chief Executives of Trusts - for cascade to:
Medical Directors
Directors of Nursing
Directors of Acute Services
Heads of Pharmacy & Medicines Management
Clinical & Social Governance Leads

Director of Primary Care, SPPG - for cascade to:
Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management

Strategic Planning and Performance Group
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast
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Tel: 0300 555 0115
Email: Brendan.Whittle@hscni.net
Date: 16 December 2022

Dear Colleague,

SERVICE NOTIFICATION FOR NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL TA832- RELUGOLIX-ESTRADIOL-NORETHISTERONE ACETATE FOR TREATING MODERATE TO SEVERE SYMPTOMS OF UTERINE FIBROIDS.

Background

The Department's Medicines Policy Branch (MPB) in the Chief Medical Officer's Group has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally endorsed it as applicable in Northern Ireland.

In line with Circular HSC (SQSD) 12/22, the SPPG is required to issue a Service Notification to HSC Trusts and other relevant providers and stakeholders, including Family Practitioners, setting out the expectations for implementation.

Commissioning Arrangements

This regimen will be formally commissioned by the SPPG.

Any changes to the commissioning arrangements on this treatment will be updated on the SPPG NI Formulary Managed Entry Decisions webpage: https://niformulary.hscni.net/managed-entry/managed-entry-decisions/

Resource Implications

Any resources associated with the introduction of the technology in line with the commissioning arrangements set out above will be incorporated in the Trust financial allocation for the appropriate financial year.

Costs of Relugolix–estradiol–norethisterone acetate may vary in different settings because of negotiated procurement discounts
Any additional infrastructure requirements will be subject to agreement with the relevant SPPG Service Team.

Legislative/Policy Caveats

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.

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 has been considered and this guidance, which is purely of a technical nature, is not regarded as falling within the scope of the Act.

Licencing

This treatment is licenced for use in Northern Ireland. The SPPG *has not* identified any licence divergence for this treatment.

Action required by Health and Social Care Trusts

Trusts should now take forward the implementation of the TA in accordance with Circular HSC (SQSD) 12/22. The SPPG's expectation is that proportionate implementation arrangements will be established on receipt of this correspondence.

In particular, within three months ensure that: targeted dissemination takes place; a clinical/management change leader has been agreed; and a proportionate implementation plan is in place.

SPPG Monitoring and Assurance arrangements

The SPPG will seek direct assurances from Trusts on an ongoing basis regarding the actions outlined above in advance of the scheduled SPPG/Trust Service Issues and Performance meetings. The SPPG cost per case process will generate regular reports on the number of applications for this treatment.

Thank you for your attention with this matter. If you have any queries please contact Emma McKee (Tel: 028 95 36 3116) in the SPPG Commissioning Directorate in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Whittle

Cc:
Chief Medical Officer
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Chief Executive, NICPLD
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chief Executive, NIBTS
Chief Executive, RQIA
Chief Executive, PHA
Group Heads, SPPG
Assistant Directors of Commissioning, SPPG
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