

By e-mail to

Provider Medical Director
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Specialised Commissioning – South
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Dear Colleague,

Technology Appraisal 614 and 615: Cannabidiol with clobazam for treating seizures associated with Lennox–Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome

I am writing to advise you regarding NHS England's position on the recently published NICE Technology Appraisal guidance for cannabidiol for treating seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut and Dravet syndrome. It advises on where the technology will be commissioned by NHS England and under what circumstances. If your Trust does not meet the definition of a specialised centre and/or cannot meet the conditions within this letter and patients may benefit from the intervention, then you should consider onward referral to a specialist centre. A list of commissioned centres is attached to this letter.

In its Technology Appraisal (614 and 615), published 18th December 2019, NICE states that:

Cannabidiol **with clobazam** is recommended as an option for treating seizures associated with Dravet syndrome and with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome in people aged 2 years and older, only if

- the frequency of convulsive seizures is checked every 6 months and cannabidiol is stopped if the frequency has not fallen by at least 30% compared with the 6 months before starting treatment
- the company provides cannabidiol according to the commercial arrangement.

The guidance can be found at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA614> and <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA615>



NHS England will commission cannabidiol (epidyolex®) with clobazam according to the criteria contained within this circular from 6th January 2020 within specialised centres as defined in Sections 11 and 119 of The Manual (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/manual-for-prescribed-specialised-services-201718/>).

It should be noted that cannabidiol (epidyolex®) is a schedule 2 drug and should be initiated and supervised by physicians with experience in the treatment of epilepsy.

This letter gives the required one month's notice as per Schedule 2 Part G (Other Local Agreements, Policies and Procedures) of your Specialised Services contract for prior approval for this treatment/indication. From one month of the date specified above, NHS England will only reimburse these treatments for patients that have been confirmed as meeting the eligibility criteria via the formal Prior Approval Scheme (i.e. Blueteq). You may wish to use the prior approval mechanism earlier than this to expedite access to this drug.

In addition, approved centres will be required to:

- Be commissioned by NHS England for the provision of specialised adult or children's epilepsy services to ensure appropriate contractual arrangements are in place
- Comply with treatment indications as defined in the NICE Technology Appraisal which includes ensuring that patients are prescribed clobazam concomitantly. To notes patients not receiving concomitant clobazam will not be funded including those patients on compassionate use schemes
- Register and comply with data collection required for the prescribing of high cost drugs (Blueteq)
- Purchase cannabidiol at the approved discounted price

Any enquiries from NHS organisations about the patient access scheme should be directed to medinfo@gwpharm.com

Providers of specialised paediatric and adult neurology services should engage with their local specialised commissioning team to consider the implications of implementing this guidance.

I would be grateful if you could cascade this information to relevant clinical teams within your organisation to support the consistent adoption of the policy nationally.



Yours sincerely,



Dr Christopher Tibbs FRCP
South East Regional Medical Director for Commissioning

Annex A: List of commissioned centres

Institution name
Addenbrookes Hospital
Aintree University Hospital NHS FT (Walton Centre)
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Barts Health NHS Trust
Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Evelina London Children's Hospital
Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust
Guys and St Thomas Hospital
Imperial College Healthcare Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt NHS Trust
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle
St Georges University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Salford Royal Infirmary
Sheffield Children's NHS Hospital Foundation Trust
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust
The Walton Centre, Liverpool
UCL (NHNN Pharmacy)
University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

