

Brivaracetam for the management of epilepsy

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of brivaracetam as an adjunctive treatment for partial-onset (focal) seizures is accepted in Devon. The Formulary Interface Group should include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Brivaracetam is a new anti-epileptic drug which is licensed as an adjunctive treatment for partial-onset (focal) seizures. Three pivotal phase III studies supported the licensing of brivaracetam. In clinical studies, there was no observed benefit of brivaracetam versus placebo in patients taking levetiracetam concurrently. A meta-analysis of outcomes from the phase III studies, excluding patients receiving concomitant levetiracetam, found statistically significant differences between brivaracetam and placebo for 50% reduction in seizure frequency and other efficacy-related outcomes.

There are no clinical trials comparing brivaracetam with other anti-epileptic drugs. Four indirect treatment comparisons reported no statistically significant differences in efficacy outcomes and rate of discontinuation due to adverse events between brivaracetam and comparator anti-epileptic drugs. Brivaracetam would be prescribed in place of an existing anti-epileptic drug. Brivaracetam is lower in cost or mid-range for the maintenance dose costs of comparator anti-epileptic drugs and is considered to offer value for money.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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