

Opicapone for Parkinson's disease

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of opicapone for Parkinson's disease is accepted in Devon. The Formulary Interface Group should include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Opicapone is a Catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitor (COMTi) used as an adjunct to levodopa in the management of Parkinson's disease. It is similar in action to the longer established COMTi entacapone but is taken once daily rather than with every dose of levodopa. Published evidence demonstrates that Opicapone has broadly similar effectiveness to entacapone in reducing 'off time' and increasing 'on' time.

The costs of treatment with opicapone may be higher or lower than using entacapone depending upon which particular products are used, and the dosing regimen. There is published evidence of a reduction in healthcare resource use, such as specialist Parkinson's disease appointments and emergency department attendances. This supports Devon specialist clinical opinion that the once daily dosing, and more favourable adverse effect profile, make it easier to initiate and stabilise patients on opicapone compared with other treatment options. This can result in better individualised care for those living with Parkinson's disease. It is considered that these benefits make opicapone a suitable use of local NHS resources.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Not applicable.

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