

Paliperidone long-acting (depot) injection for schizophrenia

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The commissioning of paliperidone long-acting (depot) injection is accepted in Devon for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia who are non-adherent to antipsychotic medication or first-generation antipsychotic depot injections are not clinically appropriate.

Rationale for the decision

A randomised controlled trial and meta-analyses have shown a similar or lower risk of relapse and a lower risk of extrapyramidal symptoms for paliperidone compared with first generation antipsychotics. Paliperidone is a metabolite of the widely used antipsychotic risperidone. Compared to the long-acting injection of risperidone, paliperidone long-acting injection is available as a prefilled syringe providing easier administration. In addition, supplementation with an oral antipsychotic is not required at the start of treatment.

Cost-effectiveness analyses indicate that paliperidone long-acting injection would be expected to be value for money for the NHS. The need for an additional depot treatment option is recognised particularly in the management of high-risk patients. Paliperidone long-acting injection is commissioned when there is a lack of insight and overt non-adherence to treatment and where avoiding covert non-adherence (whether intentional or non-intentional) with antipsychotic medication is a clinical priority within the treatment plan.

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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