Safinamide for mid-to-late stage fluctuating Parkinson's disease

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of safinamide is not accepted in Devon for patients with mid-to-late stage fluctuating Parkinson's disease.

The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Safinamide has been shown to be more effective than placebo at increasing 'on' time and reducing 'off' time, as well as improvements in the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale. However, there is no evidence of its efficacy in comparison to existing monoamine oxidase-B (MAO-B) formulary options or in patients who have failed to respond to current MAO-B options.

Safinamide is significantly more costly than current options. It was considered whether safinamide could be considered good value in patients who would otherwise require apomorphine or deep brain stimulation, however there is no trial evidence in this population.

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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