

Sativex[®] for the treatment of spasticity due to multiple sclerosis

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of Sativex[®] is accepted in Devon for the treatment of moderate to severe spasticity* in adults with multiple sclerosis if:

- other pharmacological treatments for spasticity are not effective, **AND**
- treatment is initiated and supervised by a physician with specialist expertise in treating spasticity due to multiple sclerosis, **AND**
- the patient achieves at least a 20% reduction in spasticity-related symptoms (on a 0-10 patient-reported numeric rating scale) following a 4-week trial during which the company provides Sativex[®] according to its pay-for-responders scheme

* Moderate to severe spasticity is defined as scoring 4 or more on a 0 to 10 patient-reported numeric rating scale

Rationale for the decision

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline NG144 recommends a four-week trial of Sativex[®] provided by the pay-for-responders scheme for the treatment of moderate to severe spasticity in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) who have found other pharmacological treatments for spasticity to be ineffective. Continued treatment is recommended if patients achieve a 20% reduction in spasticity-related symptoms during this trial.

A cost-effectiveness analysis developed to inform NG144 found Sativex to be a cost-effective treatment if patients achieved a 30% reduction in spasticity related symptoms. Patients who achieve a 30% reduction in spasticity-related symptoms are considered to have derived a clinically important benefit from treatment. Trial

evidence has shown that the best predictor of patients achieving a 30% reduction in symptoms with Sativex® is to achieve a 20% reduction in the first four weeks.

Sativex® offers patients with MS whose spasticity-related symptoms have not improved with other pharmacological treatments a non-invasive treatment option who may otherwise progress to invasive treatments such as botulinum toxin or intrathecal baclofen.

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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