Tocilizumab subcutaneous injection for rheumatoid arthritis

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The commissioning of tocilizumab subcutaneous injection is accepted in Devon as an alternative treatment option to tocilizumab intravenous infusion for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis where use is in line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance for tocilizumab (TA247 and TA375)

Rationale for the decision

The subcutaneous formulation of tocilizumab was shown to be non-inferior to the intravenous infusion in a large randomised double-blind, double-dummy trial. The treatment difference between the two formulations for the primary end-point of ACR20 was -4.0% (95% CI: -9.2, 1.2). Comparable outcomes were reported for the two formulations for ACR50, ACR70 and disease remission. Safety outcomes were comparable for the two formulations.

The use of tocilizumab subcutaneous injection would be expected to result in similar health gains but at a lower total treatment cost than tocilizumab intravenous infusion (including drug costs and administration costs). Subcutaneous administration is more convenient for patients and would allow administration at home.

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.

Date of publication:	Version:
22.03.2016	Policy updated by Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG in line with NICE Technology Appraisal guidance 375 Policy adopted by NHS Devon CCG on 01.04.2019 Policy adopted by NHS Devon ICB on 01.07.2022