Funding Arrangements for Cancer Drugs (Interim Policy)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) **WILL FUND** cancer drugs for Isle of Man residents in line with the Cheshire and Merseyside Chemotherapy protocols available on-line at:


DHSC **WILL FUND** new cancer drugs once these have been approved for routine use in the NHS in England by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE), as these are included in the Cheshire and Merseyside protocols.

DHSC **WILL FUND** drugs recommended by NICE for use within the new (2016) Cancer Drug Fund (CDF). NICE recommends use within the CDF when there is considered to be plausible potential for a drug to satisfy criteria for routine commissioning, but where there is significant remaining uncertainty. The new CDF is a managed access scheme with clear entry and exit criteria for each drug/indication. It provides an opportunity to gather additional data on clinical and cost effectiveness which will enable NICE to make a final decision on appropriateness of routine funding within the NHS. DHSC will fund patients to receive drugs included within the new CDF where the patient will receive treatment with the drug within the NHS England arrangements. That is, DHSC will be able to access the drug at the price agreed between NICE and the manufacturer, the patient will be managed according to the protocol agreed within the CDF, and the patient’s clinical data will be reported into the CDF and thus contribute to the understanding of clinical and cost effectiveness.

**Note:**

Isle of Man residents requiring specialist cancer treatment funded by DHSC receive this through hospitals within Cheshire and Merseyside. It is therefore appropriate for DHSC to fund treatment in line with the protocols followed by these hospitals.

The revised arrangements for the CDF in England were introduced in 2016. The NHS England budget to cover the costs of drugs used within CDF arrangements is £340 million per year. Pro-rata’d for the Isle of Man population, this would indicate an expected cost to the DHSC of around £500,000 per year.¹ In practice, because the Isle of Man population is small, the number of patients eligible for CDF drugs will fluctuate widely year on year, simply due to statistical chance. It is, therefore, important that DHSC monitors spend on CDF. While it is desirable to fund clinical studies to confirm clinical and cost effectiveness, it should be remembered that money spent on treatments of uncertain effectiveness is not available to spend on other areas of care where effectiveness may already be established. In order to better understand the value DHSC, and the population of the Isle of Man, will derive from inclusion within CDF arrangements, this policy will be interim and will be fully reviewed for clinical benefit and cost utility at the review date.

¹ Based on an England population of 55 million, an Isle of Man population of 83,000 and assuming similar patterns of cancer incidence and progression.
**Reason for policy:**

Existing cancer drug policies needed revision in the light of changed arrangements for NICE assessments and the Cancer Drug Fund in England.

This policy replaces the CRC Recommendations:

- Cancer Drug Treatments – Consideration of Funding for New Treatments Outside Currently Agreed Pathways (July 2015);
- Chemotherapy Protocols (January 2011); and
- Expensive End of Life Treatments (April 2009)

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**Date for policy review:** June 2018