

Chief Executives of Trusts - for cascade to:

Medical Directors
Directors of Nursing
Directors of Acute Services
Heads of Pharmacy & Medicines Management
Clinical & Social Governance Leads

Tel: 0300 555 0115**Web: www.hscboard.hscni.net****Our Ref:****NICE/ Technology Appraisals /
TA 360****Director of Integrated Care, HSCB - for cascade to:**

Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management

23 November 2015

Dear Colleague

NICE Guidance TA 360 - NOT RECOMMENDED - Paclitaxel as albumin-bound nanoparticles in combination with gemcitabine for previously untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer.

I refer to the above NICE guidance and the required arrangements to ensure compliance with the NICE decision **not to recommend** this regime for the treatment of this condition.

Background

NICE TA 360 **does not recommend** the use of paclitaxel as albumin-bound nanoparticles in combination with gemcitabine for previously untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer. This position has been endorsed by the DHSSPS and represents the Department's formal policy position on this NICE guidance.

Action required

Trusts should take immediate action to ensure compliance with NICE TA 360. Trusts should ensure that within one month:

- targeted dissemination takes place;
- a clinical / management leader is in place to ensure the discharging of the Trust's responsibilities; and,
- no patients requiring treatment for previously untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer commence treatment with paclitaxel as albumin-bound nanoparticles in combination with gemcitabine

In line with policy the HSCB will consider Individual Funding Requests for the use of this therapy for this indication on the grounds of clinical exceptionality as defined in the *HSCB/PHA Arrangements for the consideration of request for care/and or treatment on behalf of individual patients*. A copy of this is available on request from the HSCB Commissioning Directorate.

Assurance arrangements

The Board will seek direct assurances from Trusts on an ongoing basis regarding the actions outlined above.

Thank you for your attention with this matter. If you have any queries please contact Ms Lisa McWilliams (Tel: 95 36 3046) in the HSCB Commissioning Directorate in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning

Cc Chief Medical Officer
Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Chief Executive, NICPLD
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chief Executive, NIBTS
Chief Executive, RQIA
Chief Executive, PHA
Senior Management Team, HSCB
Assistant Directors of Commissioning, HSCB