HSCB Service Notification for the managed entry of new medicines and technologies

1.	**Treatment & Condition** Tocilizumab for treating giant cell arteritis.
2.	**Associated appraisal body *&* Summary of ruling** NICE Technology Appraisal guidance TA518 (April 2018) Tocilizumab (RoActemra®), when used with a tapering course of glucocorticoids (and when used alone after glucocorticoids), is recommended as an option for treating giant cell arteritis in adults, only if: • they have relapsing or refractory disease • they have not already had tocilizumab • tocilizumab is stopped after 1 year of uninterrupted treatment at most and • the company provides it with the discount agreed in the patient access scheme
3.	**Number of people in Northern Ireland expected to take up service/therapy** According to the Resource Impact Template that accompanies NICE TA518, it is expected that 13 people will take up treatment with tocilizumab for this indication annually in Northern Ireland.
4.	**Patient Access Scheme Availability** (**Yes**/No) The company (Roche) has agreed a patient access scheme with the Department of Health. This scheme provides a simple discount to the list price of tocilizumab, with the discount applied at the point of purchase or invoice. The level of the discount is commercial in confidence.
5.	**Infrastructure Requirements** Any additional infrastructure costs associated with the introduction of this medicine for this indication will be dealt with as part of the routine commissioning process.
6.	**Expected implementation period** There is no impediment to implementation of this guidance.
7.	**Commissioning arrangements** This regime will be formally commissioned by the HSCB/PHA via the Specialist Services Commissioning Team initially on a cost per case basis.
8.	**Monitoring arrangements** The HSC Board has robust arrangements in place for the monthly monitoring of all

	biologic therapies (patient numbers and waiting times), and this regime will be included within the routinely provided return. All monitoring returns for biologics are reviewed by the specialist services commissioning team monthly.
9.	**DoH (NI) Legislative/Policy Caveats** This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.