

To:  
Trust Heads of Pharmacy (for  
dissemination to relevant clinicians)  
Interface Pharmacy Network

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4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Colleague

**DEGARELIX (FIRMAGON®) FOR ADVANCED HORMONE-  
DEPENDENT PROSTATE CANCER IN ADULTS WITH SPINAL  
METASTASES**

As per the regionally agreed Northern Ireland Managed Entry Process<sup>1</sup>, Degarelix (Firmagon®) was approved for use in 2016, subject to the requirement as detailed by NICE TA 404 that “ the commissioner can achieve at least the same discounted drug cost as available to the NHS in June 2016”.

To date, and despite a number of communications between HSCB and Ferring Pharmaceuticals, an arrangement as detailed in NICE TA404 has not been agreed for primary care. Therefore at this time, Degarelix (Firmagon®) is NOT commissioned for use in primary care in Northern Ireland.

We are aware that a number of patients are already being prescribed this drug by their GP, and we are not suggesting repatriation of these patients at this time back to secondary care.

However, we are asking that for new patients, if Degarelix (Firmagon®) is the treatment of choice for the patient, this will be prescribed and dispensed within secondary care environment (with the caveat that the Trust can get access to at least the same discounted drug cost as available to the NHS in June 2016).

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<sup>1</sup><http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/PDF/Letter%20to%20Trusts%20re%20PROCESS%20FOR%20THE%20MANAGED%20ENTRY%20OF%20NEW%20MEDICINES%20final.pdf>

HSCB will continue to liaise with Ferring with the objective of putting in place suitable arrangement such that this drug can be prescribed within primary care when appropriate for the individual patient in the near future.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**