



Northern Treatment  
Advisory Group

## Northern Treatment Advisory Group: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, June 2018

### Chairman's foreword

NTAG has continued to meet regularly as a forum of experts to ensure that consistent and considered recommendations are made to Clinical Commissioning Groups on the adoption of new treatment pathways for patients in the North East, North Cumbria and parts of North Yorkshire.

The group has continued to make recommendations to ensure clinically effective treatments are adopted locally and ensuring the best use of NHS resources for the delivery of patient care. Members of NTAG have contributed to the development of the North Regional Medicine Optimisation Committee (RMOC). NTAG has also been included in the sub-regional pathway to consider the adoption of RMOC guidance for its member CCGs.

I would like to thank the members of NTAG and the expert advisors who contribute to the detailed treatment appraisals for the work they have done on this important and complex agenda.

**Dr Ian Davidson,**  
**Medical Director**  
**NHS North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group**

### Appraisal and Recommendations

During the financial year 2017/18 the group produced 4 new recommendations and re-reviewed 3 previous NETAG recommendations. As per the groups terms of reference the group has concentrated on non-NICE high cost specialist drugs or treatments. The group is also increasingly being asked to issue recommendations on prescribable devices. These are often more complex there is no clear evidence of benefit for patients, as the clinical data available does not have to be as rigorous as licensed medicines. See table for further details. There continue to be referrals directly from the IFR panels, this link is key in establishing a good process for review of drugs or treatments that are being requested frequently (>5) across the region. Often the drugs and treatments for which requests are made are unlicensed and there are no national guidelines or recommendations available to guide use. Where the evidence is not clear criteria have been developed to aid IFR panels in their decisions.

The group is also keep to develop a good relationship with specialists and hopes to add to the data available for some treatments by encouraging audit and review of less commonly used treatments. This year the group has facilitated the development of treatment protocols/criteria for use for Qutenza®,Pitolisant and continuing treatment with Sodium Oxybate.

All recommendations are based upon proven clinical outcomes, value for money and affordability.

Title	Recommendation
FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System.	NTAG endorses the Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC) position statement on the NHS prescribing of Freestyle Libre® Flash Glucose Monitoring System of the 1st November 2017.  NTAG recommends Freestyle Libre® as an option for glucose monitoring in Type 1 diabetic patients only in the North East and Cumbria for patients who fulfil the RMOC criteria for the device.
Qutenza®(capsaicin) cutaneous patch for neuropathic pain (Updated)	Recommended as per treatment pathway and as a fourth line treatment option.
Rituximab Biosimilars for Rheumatoid Arthritis	Recommended as an option for use in adults where the originator product (MabThera®) would normally be prescribed for new and existing patients.
Sodium Oxybate for narcolepsy with or without cataplexy in adults (updated)	Recommended in adult patients who have received and benefited from treatment with sodium oxybate as commissioned by NHS England. i.e. continuing treatment for those >19 years old
Pitolisant (Wakix®) for the treatment of narcolepsy with or without cataplexy in adults	Not recommended (Currently under review)

Paliperidone long acting injection (Xeplion®) and Paliperidone 3 monthly injection (Trevicta®) Janssen-Cilag for schizophrenia (updated)	Recommended the use of Paliperidone LAI and 3-monthly injection as per its licensed indications and as outlined in the updated Guidance on the Use of Antipsychotic Long-acting Injections in the North of England.
Liraglutide (Saxenda®) for the treatment of obesity.	Not recommended.

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All of the above recommendations and their associated appraisal documents can be accessed via the NTAG website.

## ***Membership***

The group is now well established and. Representation has been drawn from throughout NHS North East & Cumbria, both geographically and strategically (i.e. primary and specialist care, providers and commissioners.)

Patient representation has been difficult to achieve due to the specialist nature of drugs or treatments reviewed by NTAG however other avenues for patient input will be explored if necessary.

## ***Work plan***

The majority of appraisals have been conducted following a referral or request to the group by APCs or IFR panels, with a minority identified prospectively through horizon scanning processes. The current work plan is available on the website and is updated following each meeting should any changes be made. The group also continues to receive requests to re-review old NETAG recommendations that are now out of date.

## ***Further information***

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual report for NTAG and covers the period of April 2017 to March 2018.

The group will review its remit following the establishment of Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees (RMOCs) however currently the RMOCs have a slightly different remit to NTAG with NTAG concentrating on the review of high cost drugs and treatments.

The NTAG website serves as the primary source of information for NTAG. However further details can be provided by the professional secretary:

### **Contact:**

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