Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee Briefing
Best Value Biologicals: Adalimumab Update 3

Biosimilar versions of the original biological medicine adalimumab (brand name Humira®) are due to be introduced in the NHS this year after the patent for Humira® expires in October 2018.

This briefing provides a regular update for provider trusts, clinicians and commissioners. Implementing best value biological medicines enables the NHS to continue to improve patient care and provide new treatments now and into the future. It is a key element of NHS England’s Medicines Value Programme, which is aimed at continuing to give people the medicines they need and want, making the best use of the NHS’ budget, and ensuring the NHS remains a world leader in the use of medicines.

1. **New patient information materials**
A template patient letter and set of frequently-asked-questions have been developed by NHS England working in partnership with national patient organisations and will be published shortly on the Specialist Pharmacy Service website.

Please share widely within your hospital trust, particularly with clinical teams and communications colleagues. The national team is liaising with royal colleges and professional bodies to ensure we are working closely with clinical leaders across the professions to disseminate these materials and engage with them on implementation of best value biologicals in the NHS.

2. **Toolkit for best value biological implementation**
A toolkit to support implementation of the best value biological medicines, particularly focusing on adalimumab, has been published. This has been developed by the commissioning support units in partnership with NHS England.

[Adalimumab toolkit for commissioners and providers](#)

The toolkit provides supporting materials and resources that can be applied locally, linked to a project plan for best value biological implementation. Regional webinars are being arranged for August and September and dates will be communicated shortly.

3. **Procurement update**
The NHS England Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU) is undertaking a tendering process to put in place framework agreements for adalimumab. CMU is working with input from regional NHS pharmacy procurement specialists (members of the Pharmaceutical Market Support Group) to develop the specification. This work is well advanced and on completion the tendering timescales will be shared with all stakeholders and suppliers.

The tendering process will result in the provision of framework agreements, and the local commissioner will have the product details and costs for each adalimumab formulation that is available. The best value biological can then be selected locally.

4. Product update
There are now some details on the adalimumab products that will become available during 2018. The adalimumab biosimilar bios for use in the UK (but still subject to the procurement exercise) are:
- Amgevita and Solymbi (Amgen)
- Cyltezo (Boehringer Ingelheim)
- Halimatoz, Hefiya and Hyrimoz (Sandoz)
- Imraldi (Samsung Biogen).

The products are being reviewed on an ongoing basis as information becomes available, and it is clear that there are differences in excipients (additives) and administration devices.

The emerging information concerning the products (including formulations and administrative devices) is being compiled, together with evidence concerning the relevance of excipients (such as citrate); this information may be accessed through the local UK Medicines Information Centre.

5. Best value biologicals – uptake
By May 2018, national uptake of best value biological medicines, in percentage of total treatment days, was:
- Infliximab, which became available in March 2015 - 89%
- Etanercept, which became available in April 2016 - 89%
- Rituximab, which became available in April 2017 - 73%.

Trastuzumab biosimilars are now available in the NHS and uptake is being monitored.

6. Homecare
Trusts should be actively considering the future homecare arrangements and likely scenarios. Please liaise closely with the existing homecare provider to ensure that they are aware of all decisions as they are made. It will be possible to request an updated contract
from the chosen homecare provider(s) after August (the national template is currently being updated).

7. **Contact us**
RMOC regional pharmacist (NHSE/NHSI) contact details:
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- Midlands and East - richard.seal1@nhs.net
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All communications will be shared via the Specialist Pharmacy Service website’s RMOC web pages which are [here](#)

8. **Useful links**

**Position statements from specialist societies:**
British Society for Rheumatology:
[https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/Portals/0/Policy/Policy%20Statements/Biosimilars.pdf](https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/Portals/0/Policy/Policy%20Statements/Biosimilars.pdf) (Jan 2017)

British Society of Gastroenterology:

British Association of Dermatologists:

**Adalimumab RMOC Update 1:**
[https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-briefing-paper-on-adalimumab/](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-briefing-paper-on-adalimumab/)

**Adalimumab RMOC Update 2:**