

Our Ref: ID 1728

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request - Sativex Cannabis Spray for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) spasticity

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 30th July 2020.

You Asked for:

The following is an extract from the NICE recommendation 2019 on the use of Sativex for MS spasticity:

“1.3 Spasticity

1.3.1 Offer a 4-week trial of THC:CBD spray to treat moderate to severe spasticity in adults with multiple sclerosis, if:

- other pharmacological treatments for spasticity are not effective (see the recommendations on spasticity in [NICE's guideline on multiple sclerosis in adults](#))*
- the company provides THC:CBD spray according to its pay-for-responders scheme[2].*

After the 4-week trial, continue THC:CBD spray if the person has had at least a 20% reduction in spasticity-related symptoms on a 0 to 10 patient-reported numeric rating scale.

1.3.2 Treatment with THC:CBD spray should be initiated and supervised by a physician with specialist expertise in treating spasticity due to multiple sclerosis, in line with its marketing authorisation.”

It appears that ‘the company’ will provide financial support (by way of a 4 week trial) to help prescribers identify those patients with MS being treated in the NHS who will derive most benefit from treatment with Sativex. This trial is only possible if the commissioner/funder of care is then prepared to fund the drug going forward (in the event the patient sees at least a 20% improvement in their symptoms).

What I would like to know is:

1. Who is responsible for funding Sativex in this scenario? Is it the Trust itself or the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)? And if so, which CCG?
2. If the patient is a resident in Wirral and registered with a GP on Wirral, would that suggest the commissioner/funder in this case would be Wirral CCG?
3. If so, could you please confirm what your commissioning policy is for Sativex? Do you usually fund Sativex if the 4 week trial is successful?
4. If you are not the responsible commissioner/funder, could you please confirm who is?

5. If NHS Wirral CCG or the responsible commissioner do not usually fund Sativex, is it still possible for an Individual Funding Request (IFR) to be submitted to the CCG for use of this drug on an exceptional basis?
6. If so, do you have any guidance on such requests and would that request be submitted to you by the treating consultant?

Our Response:

1. Sativex is a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioned drug, and the licensed indications are stated in the Pan Mersey guidance.
2. Yes.
3. Please see the link provided below for further information regarding Pan Mersey Sativex guidance:
https://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/media/2377/cannabis_support.pdf?UNLID=862633966202082016915
4. Not applicable. Please see the answer to question number 2.
5. Please see the answer to question number 1.
6. Not applicable. Please see the answer to question number 1.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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