

Costing statement: infliximab for acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis

The guidance on infliximab for acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis (NICE technology appraisal guidance 163) is unlikely to result in a significant change in resource use in the NHS.

The guidance relates only to the use of infliximab within its marketing authorisation, for the treatment of acute exacerbations of severely active ulcerative colitis. It relates to an induction course comprising three doses of infliximab. The guidance states:

- Infliximab is recommended as an option for the treatment of acute exacerbations of severely active ulcerative colitis only in patients in whom ciclosporin is contraindicated or clinically inappropriate, based on a careful assessment of the risks and benefits of treatment in the individual patient.
- In people who do not meet the above criterion, infliximab should only be used for the treatment of acute exacerbations of severely active ulcerative colitis in clinical trials.

Patient numbers affected

There are approximately 76,000¹ people in England with ulcerative colitis. Of these, an estimated 3%² (2,300) have an acute exacerbation of severely active ulcerative colitis per year. It is estimated that ciclosporin would be contraindicated or clinically inappropriate for 2%³ (45) of these patients, making them eligible to receive infliximab.

¹ National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Final scope (2008) Infliximab for the treatment of acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis (prevalence of 100 to 200 per 100,000)

² Manufacturer's submission to NICE

³ UK IDB audit (2006) www.rcplondon.ac.uk/college/ceeu/ceeu_uk_ibd_audit.htm

Resource impact

The cost of the induction course of infliximab for one patient with an acute exacerbation of severely active ulcerative colitis is shown in table 1.

Table 1 Cost of an induction course of infliximab

Drug name	Dose and frequency	Cost of one 100-mg vial of infliximab (£)	Administration cost per dose* (£)	Cost of the induction course of infliximab (£)**
Infliximab	Three doses of 350 mg	419.62	90	5,305

*Based on follow-up gastroenterology appointment taken from the national tariff for 2008/09 uplifted by the average market forces factor of 1.1249
**Cost assumes no vial sharing

Given the small number of people eligible for treatment with infliximab for acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis after publication of this guidance, we do not anticipate there being a significant impact on resources.