

Quick reference guide

Pemetrexed for the first-line treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer

In August 2007, NICE issued technology appraisal guidance 124 'Pemetrexed for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer', which states that pemetrexed is not recommended for patients with NSCLC who have had prior chemotherapy. This guidance (technology appraisal 181) applies to the first-line use of pemetrexed in patients with NSCLC.

Guidance

- 1 Pemetrexed in combination with cisplatin is recommended as an option for the first-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) only if the histology of the tumour has been confirmed as adenocarcinoma or large-cell carcinoma.
- 2 People who are currently being treated with pemetrexed for NSCLC but who do not meet the criteria in 1 should have the option to continue their therapy until they and their clinicians consider it appropriate to stop.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA181).

- Costing tools:
 - costing report to estimate the national savings and costs associated with implementation
 - costing template to estimate the local costs and savings involved.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/TA181

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote:

- N1991 (quick reference guide)
- N1992 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see www.nice.org.uk

Published

- Erlotinib for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 162 (2008). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA162
- Bevacizumab for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer (terminated appraisal). NICE technology appraisal 148 (2008). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA148
- Pemetrexed for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 124 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA124
- Lung cancer. NICE clinical guideline 24 (2005). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/CG24

Under development

- Gefitinib for the first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected June 2010).
- Erlotinib monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of non-small-cell-lung cancer after previous platinum-containing chemotherapy. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected August 2010).
- The diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer (update). NICE clinical guideline (publication expected March 2011).
- Erlotinib (in combination with bevacizumab) for the maintenance treatment of non-squamous advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer after previous platinum-containing chemotherapy. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected June 2011).
- Cetuximab for the treatment of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication date to be confirmed).

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in July 2010. Information about the progress of a review will be available at www.nice.org.uk/TA181

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

© National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2009. All rights reserved. This material may be freely reproduced for educational and not-for-profit purposes. No reproduction by or for commercial organisations, or for commercial purposes, is allowed without the express written permission of NICE.