

Understanding NICE guidance

Information for people who use NHS services

Bevacizumab (first-line), sorafenib (first- and second-line), sunitinib (second-line) and temsirolimus (first-line) for advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This leaflet is about when **bevacizumab (first-line), sorafenib (first- and second-line), sunitinib (second-line) and temsirolimus (first-line)** should be used to treat people with advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It is written for people with advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma or the treatments in detail – your specialist should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on the back page.

There are some other possible treatments for advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma. Your healthcare team should talk to you about the treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

Bevacizumab, sorafenib and temsirolimus are not recommended as first drug treatments for people with advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

Sorafenib and sunitinib are not recommended as second drug treatments for people with advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

Specialists should not stop prescribing bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus for people who were already taking them when the guidance was issued. These people should be able to carry on taking bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus until they and their specialists decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

Renal cell carcinoma

Renal cell carcinoma is a kidney cancer (tumour) that starts in cells lining the small tubes that help to make urine. In advanced disease, the tumour has spread inside the kidney, but may or may not have spread to nearby lymph glands. In metastatic renal cell carcinoma, the tumour has spread beyond the lymph glands to other parts of the body.

Bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus

Bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus are drugs that work by slowing down the growth of tumours. Bevacizumab is injected and is used with another drug called interferon. Temsirolimus is also injected, but sorafenib and sunitinib are taken as tablets.

What does this mean for me?

NICE looks at how well treatments work and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS. NICE applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life.

As a first drug treatment for advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma, bevacizumab did not work well enough in relation to its cost and did not qualify for special consideration. Temsirolimus did not work well enough in relation to its cost, even when the special considerations were applied. There is not enough reliable evidence that sorafenib is more effective as a first drug treatment than existing treatments.

As a second drug treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma, sorafenib did not work well enough in relation to its cost, even when special considerations were applied. There is not enough reliable evidence that sunitinib is more effective as a second drug treatment than existing treatments.

This means that for the time being these drugs should not be prescribed routinely on the NHS for these uses. Your specialist should talk to you about other treatment options available to you.

If you are already taking bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib or temsirolimus for advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma, you should be able to continue taking it until you and your specialist decide it is the right time to stop.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with advanced or metastatic renal carcinoma. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- Kidney Cancer UK, 01889 565801
www.kcuk.org
- Kidney Research UK, 0845 300 1499
www.kidneyresearchuk.org
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 800 1234
www.macmillan.org.uk
- National Kidney Federation, 0845 601 0209
www.kidney.org.uk
- Rarer Cancers Forum, 01227 738279
www.rarercancers.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. Your local patient advice and liaison service (usually known as 'PALS') may be able to give you more information and support. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE produces guidance (advice) for the NHS about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This leaflet and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/TA178

You can order printed copies of this leaflet from NICE publications (phone 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote reference N1984). The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on the Browsealoud logo on the NICE website to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this leaflet in their own information about advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

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ISBN 978-1-84936-071-5
N1984 1k 1P Aug 09