

Understanding NICE guidance

Information for people who use NHS services

Pazopanib as a first treatment for advanced 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 **pazopanib** should be used to treat people with advanced 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 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 renal cell carcinoma or the treatments in detail – a member of your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on the back page.

This may not be the only possible treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether it is suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends pazopanib as a possible treatment for some people with renal cell carcinoma (see below).

Who can have pazopanib?

You should be able to have pazopanib if:

- your renal cell carcinoma is advanced **and**
- you have not had treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma before **and**
- you are mobile and can do light housework or office work.

When assessing people with disabilities, healthcare professionals should bear in mind that a person's disability might also affect their level of physical activity. They should make adjustments for this.

Why has NICE said this?

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 lives. NICE recommended pazopanib because it works as well as other treatments available on the NHS, but costs less.

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.

Pazopanib

Pazopanib is a drug that interferes with the growth and spread of cancer cells. Pazopanib is taken as a tablet.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have advanced renal cell carcinoma, and you and your doctor think that pazopanib is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' across the page), you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see

www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if you think you are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

If you are already taking pazopanib for renal cell carcinoma but you are not eligible for it (see 'Who can have pazopanib?' in 'What has NICE said?' across the page), you should be able to continue taking it until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

More information

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

- CancerHelp UK (the patient information website of Cancer Research UK)
0808 800 4040
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
- Kidney Cancer UK, 01889 565801
www.kcuk.org
- Kidney Research UK, 0845 300 1499
www.kidneyresearchuk.org
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
- National Kidney Federation, 0845 601 0209
www.kidney.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/guidance/TA215

You can order printed copies of this leaflet from NICE publications (phone 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote reference N2447). 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 renal cell carcinoma.