

Colistimethate sodium and tobramycin dry powders for inhalation for pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis

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

This document is about when colistimethate sodium and tobramycin dry powders for inhalation should be used to treat pseudomonas lung infection in people with cystic fibrosis 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 cystic fibrosis but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis 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 page 5.

These may not be the only possible treatments for pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether they are suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends tobramycin and colistimethate sodium dry powders for inhalation as possible treatments for chronic pseudomonas lung infection in **some** people with cystic fibrosis (see below).

Who can have colistimethate sodium and tobramycin dry powders for inhalation?

You should be able to have tobramycin dry powder for inhalation if nebulised tobramycin is an appropriate treatment for you because colistimethate sodium is not suitable for you or hasn't worked well enough.

You should be offered colistimethate dry powder for inhalation if you would benefit from continued colistimethate sodium treatment but cannot take it in its nebulised form and you would otherwise be offered tobramycin treatment.

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 recommended colistimethate sodium dry powder for inhalation because it offers an alternative mode of delivery of colistimethate sodium for people who could benefit from colistimethate sodium but can't tolerate it in a nebulised form and would otherwise use tobramycin therapy (a more expensive treatment). NICE recommended tobramycin dry powder for inhalation when colistimethate sodium treatment isn't suitable because it works as well as nebulised tobramycin and it may be preferred by some patients.

Pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the lungs by clogging them with thick and sticky mucus. This affects breathing and also increases the risk of lung infections from bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Chronic pseudomonas lung infection is known to reduce the length and quality of life of people with cystic fibrosis.

Colistimethate sodium and tobramycin

Colistimethate sodium and tobramycin are antibiotics that are used to treat bacterial lung infections in people with cystic fibrosis. They can be inhaled as dry powders or taken using a nebuliser.

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 cystic fibrosis and chronic pseudomonas lung infection, and you and your doctor think that colistimethate sodium or tobramycin dry powder for inhalation is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 2), 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 not eligible for treatment as described in 'What has NICE said' on page 2, you should be able to continue taking colistimethate sodium or tobramycin dry powder for inhalation until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop. If you are under 18 this decision should be made jointly by you, your doctor, and your parents or carers.

More information

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

- Cystic Fibrosis Trust, 0300 373 1000

www.cftrust.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on whom 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 document and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA276

The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on [Accessibility](#) at the bottom of the NICE homepage to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this document in their own information about cystic fibrosis.

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