National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Single Technology Appraisal

Fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant for treating chronic diabetic macular oedema after an inadequate response to prior therapy (Rapid review TA271) [ID693]

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was invited to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) of the use of Fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant for treating chronic diabetic macular oedema after an inadequate response to prior therapy (Rapid review TA271).

Nurses caring for people with chronic diabetic macular oedema reviewed the documents on behalf of the RCN.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review this document. The RCN's response to the questions on which comments were requested is set out below:

i) **Has the relevant evidence been taken into account?**

Yes this seems a comprehensive review of the current evidence base.

ii) **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?**

The summaries of cost effectiveness seem reasonable interpretations of the evidence. The review seems to have taken into account the chronic nature of this debilitating disease in the estimate.

iii) **Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?**

Yes, we agree with the recommendations.

We welcome the opportunity to have access to this pharmacological agent for those patients that are not responding to other treatment modalities and have chronic macular oedema. The slow release and sustained duration effect of the drug has the additional benefit for the elderly patients that may find it difficult to attend monthly clinics. Restricting it to patients that have already had cataract surgery will also minimize the impact for phakic patients that have a high risk of requiring surgical intervention due to cataract formation associated with steroid therapy.

The RCN would welcome guidance to the NHS on the use of this health technology.

iv) **Are there any aspects of the recommendations that need particular consideration to ensure we avoid unlawful discrimination against any group of people on the grounds of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief?**

We are not aware of any at this stage.

v) **Are there any equality-related issues that need special consideration that are not covered in the appraisal consultation document?**

We are not aware of any specific issue at this stage. We would ask that any guidance issued should show that an equality impact analysis has been considered and that the guidance demonstrates an understanding of issues relating to all the protected characteristics where appropriate.