

Alemtuzumab for treating active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Alemtuzumab is recommended as a possible treatment for people with active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

What does this mean for me?

If you have active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, and your doctor thinks that alemtuzumab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Alemtuzumab should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

Alemtuzumab was recommended because it works as well other treatments available on the NHS, and the costs were justified by the benefits it provided.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which areas of the brain and spinal cord become damaged by the body's own immune system.

There are different types of the condition. One type is relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis, in which people have flare-ups of symptoms (relapses) followed by a period of recovery (remission). Active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis is when there have been 2 clinically significant relapses in the previous 2 years.

Alemtuzumab (also known as Lemtrada) is a drug that is thought to work by modifying the body's immune system to stop it attacking the brain and spinal cord.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Multiple Sclerosis Society, 0808 800 8000, www.mssociety.org.uk
- Multiple Sclerosis Trust, 01462 476700, www.mstrust.org.uk

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Accreditation

