

# Idelalisib for treating chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## What has NICE said?

Idelalisib (Zydelig), given with a drug called rituximab, is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with:

- untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, only if they have certain genetic characteristics
- chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, only if it has been treated but has come back within 2 years.

## What does this mean for me?

If you have chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, and your doctor thinks that idelalisib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking idelalisib until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

## Why has NICE said this?

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

Idelalisib was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

## The condition and the treatment(s)

Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, which is also known as CLL, is a cancer of a type of white blood cell (called the B lymphocytes). The cancerous lymphocytes multiply in an uncontrolled way and stop other blood cells working properly.

Idelalisib blocks certain proteins inside cancer cells, helping to slow or stop the cancer growing for a time.

NHS Choices ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- Leukaemia CARE, 0808 8010 444, [www.leukaemiacare.org.uk](http://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk)
- Lymphoma Association, 0808 808 5555, [www.lymphomas.org.uk](http://www.lymphomas.org.uk)
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Support Association, 0800 977 4396, [www.clisupport.org.uk](http://www.clisupport.org.uk)
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000, [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)
- Cancer Research UK Patient Information, 0808 800 4040, [www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer)

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## Accreditation

