

# Olaparib for maintenance treatment of relapsed, platinum-sensitive, BRCA mutation-positive ovarian, fallopian tube and peritoneal cancer after response to second-line or subsequent platinum-based chemotherapy

Information for the public

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

## What has NICE said?

Olaparib (Lynparza) is recommended as a possible treatment for people with ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer that has relapsed, if:

- their cancer is platinum-sensitive
- it has tested positive for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations, and
- they have had 3 or more courses of platinum-based chemotherapy.

## *What does this mean for me?*

If you have cancer as described above, and your doctor thinks that olaparib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

If you are already taking olaparib for ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer that is not recommended above, you should be able to continue taking it 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.

NICE applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life. Olaparib was recommended for people who have had 3 or more courses of platinum-based chemotherapy because the costs are justified by the benefits it provides, when the special considerations are applied.

## The conditions and the treatment

The ovaries are part of the female reproductive system and are found in the abdomen. Cancer can occur in the tissue covering the ovaries, in the tubes leading from the ovaries to the womb (fallopian tube cancer) or in the membrane that lines the inside of the abdomen (peritoneal cancer).

Cells contain genes that are normally protective against cancer– they repair any damage that naturally occurs when cells divide. Having faulty versions (mutations) of these genes significantly raises your risk of developing cancer because the faulty genes cannot repair the damaged cells, which can lead to cancer. BRCA1 and BRCA2 are gene mutations that increase the risk of having cancer.

The first treatment for ovarian cancer is usually platinum-based chemotherapy drugs. 'Platinum-sensitive' means that the cancer has come back (relapsed) more than 6 months after the last dose of platinum-based chemotherapy drugs.

Olaparib is a drug that kills cancer cells.

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- Ovarian Cancer Action, 0207 380 1730, [www.ovarian.org.uk](http://www.ovarian.org.uk)
- Ovacome, 0845 371 0554, [www.ovacome.org.uk](http://www.ovacome.org.uk)

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- Target Ovarian Cancer, 020 7923 5470, [www.targetovariancancer.org.uk](http://www.targetovariancancer.org.uk)
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000, [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)
- Cancer Research UK Patient Information (previously CancerHelp UK), 0808 800 4040, [www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer)

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## *Accreditation*

