

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Sloan Harper



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 40/09 TA 154

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 154 –
Telbivudine for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis
B**

For action by:

Chief Executives of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

Directors of Public Health
Directors of Nursing
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services
Directors of Primary Care – for cascade to prescribing and
GP Advisors

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to
relevant staff

General Practitioners

HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chief Executive Public Health Agency
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Chief Officers HSC Councils
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Chief Executive, NICPLD
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chief Executive, RMSC

Summary of Contents:

This guidance relates to the use of telbivudine for treating chronic hepatitis B.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

Standards & Guidelines Unit
DHSSPS
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SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 40/2009

Date of Issue: 29 July 2009

Related documents:

See bullet points 6 below

Superseded documents

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

IMMEDIATE

Additional copies:

Available to download from

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance.htm>

Dear Colleagues

Technology Appraisal No 154 – Telbivudine for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B

Telbivudine is not recommended for people with chronic hepatitis B. Healthcare professionals should not stop prescribing telbivudine for people who were already taking it when the guidance was issued. These patients should be able to carry on taking telbivudine until they and their healthcare professionals decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC.

The full NICE technology appraisal is available for download at:

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA154>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to comply with this NICE guidance with **immediate** effect;
2. This guidance does not apply to people with chronic hepatitis B who also have hepatitis C, hepatitis D or HIV.
3. This technology appraisal was considered for review by NICE in February 2009, however NICE found that no new evidence has been published that would have any material effect on the original guidance. Consequently NICE will now review this appraisal in March 2010.
4. This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case;
5. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA154> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
6. NICE has produced related guidance on hepatitis B and this can be accessed at

NICE guidance published after July 2006.

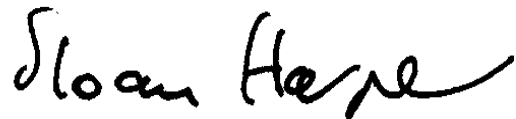
Entecavir for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B. NICE technology appraisal guidance 153 (2008). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/TA153

NICE guidance published before July 2006

Adefovir dipivoxil and peginterferon alfa-2a for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B. NICE technology appraisal guidance 96 (2006). Available for download at : www.nice.org.uk/TA096

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at: [Safety, Quality and Standards | NICE Guidance | DHSSPS\(NI\)](#)

Circular HSS (PPMD) (NICE) 01/06 issued on 30 June 2006 provides further information on the Northern Ireland process for reviewing NICE guidance and further details on the local status of the Institute's guidance. This circular can be accessed at:
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sloan Harper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'e'.

DR SLOAN HARPER
Deputy Chief Medical Officer