

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 42/09 TA 163

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 163 –
Infliximab for Acute Exacerbations of Ulcerative
Colitis**

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**
Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement
Director of Commissioning
Assistant Directors of Commissioning
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
Family Practitioner Services Leads

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**
Director of Public Health
Director of Nursing

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**
Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant
staff
Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Chief Executive, NICPLD
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chair, RMSG

Summary of Contents:

Infliximab is recommended as a possible treatment for people with acute, severely active ulcerative colitis only if:

- ciclosporin is considered inappropriate for them, **or**
- they are taking part in a research study (clinical trial)

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:
Standards & Guidelines Unit
DHSSPS
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 42/2009

Date of Issue: 22 September 2009

Related documents:

See bullet point 5 below

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

Put plans in place within 3 months

Additional copies:

Available to download from

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

Dear Colleagues

Technology Appraisal No 163 – Infliximab for Acute Exacerbations of Ulcerative Colitis

Infliximab is recommended as a possible treatment for people with acute, severely active ulcerative colitis only if:

- ciclosporin is considered inappropriate for them, **or**
- they are taking part in a research study (clinical trial)

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://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA163>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to put plans in place within 3 months of this e-mail alert, to facilitate implementation of this guidance.
2. This guidance will be considered for review by NICE as and when required.
3. 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.
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA163> and include a costing statement and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. NICE has developed related guidance and this can be accessed at:

Infliximab for subacute manifestations of ulcerative colitis. NICE technology appraisal guidance TA140 (2008). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/TA140

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance.htm>

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://dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer