REQUEST AND RESPONSE

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 8 April 2013 by Kent and Medway Commissioning Support on behalf of all eight NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent and Medway. All answers relate to NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent and Medway only. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

1. Are you familiar with the new NICE guidance published in December 2012 regarding the approved access to advanced skin cancer treatments ipilimumab (Yervoy) (TA268) and vemurafenib (Zelboraf) (TA269)?
   Yes

   If so, how is it being adopted locally?
   Treatment has been funded by the Cancer Drug Fund – Until the NHS re-organisation which meant the drugs would be funded nationally from 1 April 2013 by NHS England in accordance with National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines.

2. Are you currently making ipilimumab and vemurafenib routinely available to those who need it following the publication of the guidance on 12th December 2012?
   Yes

   If not, why not?
   Not applicable – Please see above.

3. If you answered “yes” to Question 2, did you make ipilimumab and vemurafenib routinely available to those who need it by 12th March 2013, the three month implementation deadline following the publication of NICE guidance?
   Yes
If not, what is the rationale for this?
Not applicable – Please see above.

4. If you answered “yes” to Question 2, when exactly did you make ipilimumab and vemurafenib routinely available to those who need it?
March 2013 prior to this it was accessed via the Cancer Drugs Fund.
http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/cdf/

5. Have ipilimumab and vemurafenib now been incorporated into your local formulary?
Yes/No
If not, why not?
They are included in the Kent and Medway Cancer Network formulary.

6. Had ipilimumab and vemurafenib been incorporated into your local formulary by 12th March 2013?
Yes/No
If not, why not?
Please refer to the answer to question five above.

7. Have relevant clinicians in your area been advised of the new NICE guidance on ipilimumab and vemurafenib?
Yes
If not, why not?
Not applicable – Please see above.

8. How many applications for funding through Independent Funding Requests (IFRs) for ipilimumab (Yervoy) have you received since 12th March 2013?
No applications have been received.
Of these applications, have any been refused?
Not Applicable – Please see above.
If so, how many and why?
Not applicable – Please see above.

9. How many applications for funding through Independent Funding Requests (IFRs) for vemurafenib (Zelboraf) have you received since the publication of the NICE guidance (TA269) in December 2012 for the treatment of Melanoma (BRAF V600 mutation positive, unresectable metastatic)?
One application was received. It was forwarded to the South East Coast Cancer Drugs Fund, who approved the funding.
Of these applications, have any been refused?
No
If so, how many and why?
Not applicable – Please see above.
10. Following Sir David Nicholson’s letter to NHS Chief Executives in August 2012 confirming the 1st April 2013 deadline for the introduction of the NHS Compliance Regime for Technology Appraisals, are you planning to make information about the availability of ipilimumab and vemurafenib available?
Yes, clinicians have been notified and treatment algorithms are in the public domain of Kent and Medway Cancer Network.

If so, when are you planning to publish it?
Please refer to the website below for this information.

11. Are you in the process of, or have you already carried out, a budgetary assessment relating to the impact of the positive guidance for the above treatments in your area?
If so, do you have an estimated figure of the potential cost of the positive guidance?
Budget for 2013/14 for chemotherapy sits with NHS England not the Clinical Commissioning Groups, therefore this information is held by NHS England. Please contact them direct to obtain this information.

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