

Peer review comments – baricitinib

Managing COVID-19 rapid guideline (NG191)

Peer review organisations

For a list of stakeholders invited to comment on COVID-19 guidance as part of the targeted peer review, please see the [targeted peer review stakeholder list](#) on the NICE website.

Peer review comments

Overarching category	Guideline section	Theme of comments	Action taken
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Recommendation	3 members in agreement with the content of the recommendation.	No action to take.
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Recommendation	1 member noted that the mention of infection other than SARS-CoV-2 may not be relevant to patients admitted in the acute setting.	The eligibility criteria specifying secondary infections other than SARS-CoV-2 is in line with previous NICE recommendations for tocilizumab as well as the protocols of the included studies in the evidence review.
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Recommendation and remarks	1 member noted that the specified dose reductions for people over the age of 75 are not specified in study protocols but are quoted from the summary of product characteristics for baricitinib	The suggested dose reduction for people over the age of 75 is in line with the summary of product characteristics and BNF guidance for the licensed indication for baricitinib as stated in the recommendation. However, given that the recommendation covers short term use in an acute care setting, the dosage advice will be removed from the recommendation to avoid the risk of undertreatment if a lower dose is given. The lower dose is based on historical prescribing for a chronic indication and was not adopted in the

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			studies reviewed for treating COVID-19. It is expected that in clinical practice the dosage and duration will follow this reviewed evidence.
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Recommendation and remarks	1 member agreed with the content of the remarks section of the recommendation.	No action to take.
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Evidence to decision	1 member agreed with the content of the section.	No action to take.
Recommendation 1 – baricitinib for adults	Evidence to decision	1 member queried whether there were any studies directly comparing the effectiveness of tocilizumab and baricitinib to determine which drug was better suited for COVID-19 patients.	As of April 2022, there are no studies directly comparing the efficacy of tocilizumab compared with baricitinib for COVID-19 patients.
Recommendation 2 – baricitinib for children	Recommendation	1 member agreed with the content of the section.	No action to take.

Date of completion: 12/04/2022