

# Methylnaltrexone for treating opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care (terminated appraisal)

Technology appraisal guidance

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[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta277](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta277)

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## Advice

NICE is unable to recommend the use in the NHS of methylnaltrexone for treating opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care because no evidence submission was received from the manufacturer of the technology.

## Background

The manufacturer of methylnaltrexone (TMC Pharma Services) was invited to submit evidence for the single technology appraisal of methylnaltrexone for treating opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care.

In December 2012, TMC Pharma Services informed NICE that it would not be making an evidence submission for this appraisal. The manufacturer stated that it is holding the European marketing authorisation for methylnaltrexone on a temporary basis while the product owner finds a permanent European partner, but timelines for this are not currently known.

NICE has therefore terminated this single technology appraisal.

## Information

NHS organisations should take into account the reasons why the manufacturer did not make an evidence submission when considering whether or not to recommend local use of methylnaltrexone for treating opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care. If, after doing this, organisations still wish to consider methylnaltrexone for treating opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care, they should follow the advice set out in [Good practice guidance on managing the introduction of new healthcare interventions and links to NICE technology appraisal guidance](#) which outlines the approach that should be adopted in circumstances where NICE guidance is unavailable.

NICE will review the position at any point if the manufacturer indicates that it wishes to make a full submission.

## Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see the [NICE website](#).

### Published

- [Opioids in palliative care: safe and effective prescribing of strong opioids for pain in palliative care of adults](#). NICE clinical guideline 140 (2012)
- [Prucalopride for the treatment of chronic constipation in women](#). NICE technology appraisal guidance 211 (2010)

### Under development

NICE is developing the following guidance (details available from the [NICE website](#)):

- Lubiprostone for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation. NICE technology appraisal. Publication date to be confirmed.