National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Multiple Technology Appraisals (MTA)
Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in children and young people [ID373]
Appraisal Consultation Document

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was invited to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) for **Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in children and young people [ID373]**

Nurses caring for people with hepatitis C reviewed the documents on behalf of the RCN.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review this document. The RCN's response to the questions on which comments were requested is set out below:

i) **Has the relevant evidence been taken into account?**

The relevant evidence available has been taken into account appropriately and reasonable interpretations made relating to the treatment of chronic hepatitis c in children and young people. The recommendations are a sound and suitable base for guidance but there will be further work required by local

Hepatology networks and individual clinicians as to where patients are to be treated (ie should this be limited to specialist tertiary liver centres) and further local guidelines for age of commencement in relation to level of fibrosis, issues around pre and post puberty and considerations in patient choice.

ii) **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?**

The RCN has no comments to submit.

iii) **Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?**

"Peginterferon alfa-2a (Pegasys, Roche Products)The recommended treatment duration is 24 weeks (genotypes 2 or 3) or 48 weeks (all other genotypes) depending on baseline viral load and whether or not a child has a virological response (defined as a 100-fold decrease in, or undetectable levels of, serum HCV RNA) at weeks **4 and 24".**

Is this stopping rule correct? Should this read 12 and 24?

iv) **Could the preliminary recommendations have a different impact on people protected by the equality legislation than on the wider population, for example by making it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology or have any adverse impact on people with a particular disability or disabilities?**

The RCN has no comments to submit.

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August 2013