CHILDREN'S
chiva
HIV ASSOCIATION
Secretariat: Mediscript Ltd
1 Mountview Court · 310 Friern Barnet Lane · London N20 0LD
Tel: +44 (0)20 8446 8898 · Fax: +44 (0)20 8446 9194 · Email: chiva@chiva.org.uk · Web: www.chiva.org.uk

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Stuart Wood
Technology Appraisals Administrator
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)
MidCity Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6NA

Dear Stuart

Hepatitis C (children) – pegylated interferons, peginterferon alfa, ribavirin and alfa interferon – CHIVA response following the workshop on 31 August 2012

Following the attendance of Dr Anna Turkova on behalf of the Children's HIV Association at the Consultee and Commentator Information Meeting on the above consultation, please see below for the CHIVA comments.

CHIVA remarks

- We note that there is little evidence on which to base treatment strategies in children with hepatitis C infection, and even less evidence in HIV/hepatitis C coinfection
- The examination of evidence for interferon and ribavirin-based treatments is important in the light of the imminent availability of newer treatments, but robust conclusions will be hard to reach in the light of the dearth of evidence
- In the absence of large amounts of high-quality published evidence, it is important to examine clinical experience of these treatments, Such experience is particularly available from Russia, and Dr Turkova has links with hepatitis C-treating physicians through PENTA [1]
- CHIVA is very interested in remaining part of this process, represented by Dr Turkova
- The imminent availability of new treatments with a limited number of patients eligible for treatment means that there is an urgent need for gathering of cohort information on such patients, and the development of coordinated rational strategies for delivering and investigating existing and new treatments in such patients. PENTA[1] has considerable experience of developing such cohort collaborations and of strategic treatment trials.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact me through the Secretariat.

With kind regards

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[1] Paediatric European Network for Treatment of AIDS (PENTA) was established in 1991 as a collaboration between paediatric HIV centres in Europe.