

# Bortezomib for multiple myeloma before chemotherapy and stem cell transplant

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## What has NICE said?

Bortezomib (given with a drug called dexamethasone, or with dexamethasone and thalidomide) is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with multiple myeloma before having chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation, if their multiple myeloma has not been treated before.

## What does this mean for me?

If you have multiple myeloma as described above, and your doctor thinks that bortezomib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Bortezomib should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

## Why has NICE said this?

Bortezomib was recommended because it is an effective treatment for people with multiple myeloma before having chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation, and its cost is justified by its benefits.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

## The condition and the treatment

Multiple myeloma is a type of cancer that affects cells in the bone marrow. Symptoms can include bone pain, bone fractures, anaemia, loss of appetite, excessive bleeding after cuts or scrapes, and frequent infections.

Bortezomib (also known as Velcade) is a drug that stops cancer cells from growing and causes them to die. Bortezomib is used together with other drugs (dexamethasone and thalidomide), before someone has high-dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation. This helps to improve the response to treatment.

NHS Choices ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- CancerHelp UK, 0808 800 4040  
[www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)
- Leukaemia CARE, 0808 8 010 444  
[www.leukaemiacare.org.uk](http://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk)
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000  
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)
- Myeloma UK, 0800 980 3332  
[www.myeloma.org.uk](http://www.myeloma.org.uk)
- South Asian Health Foundation, 020 331 30677  
[www.sahf.org.uk](http://www.sahf.org.uk)

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## Accreditation

