

Dimethyl fumarate for treating relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis

Information for the public

Published: 1 August 2014

www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Dimethyl fumarate is recommended as a possible treatment for people with active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis that isn't highly active or rapidly evolving severe relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

What does this mean for me?

If you have active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, and your doctor thinks that dimethyl fumarate is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking dimethyl fumarate until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

Dimethyl fumarate was recommended because it works better and costs about the same as other treatments available on the NHS.

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 sclerosis is a disease in which areas of the brain and spinal cord become damaged by the body's own immune system. There are different types of the condition. One type is relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, in which people have flare-ups of symptoms (relapses) followed by a period of recovery (remission). Active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis is when there have been 2 clinically significant relapses in the previous 2 years. Highly active or rapidly evolving severe relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis is when the condition is even more active and severe.

Dimethyl fumarate (also known as Tecfidera) is a drug that works by modifying the body's immune system to stop it attacking the brain and spinal cord.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Multiple Sclerosis Society, 020 8438 0700, www.mssociety.org.uk
- Multiple Sclerosis Trust, 01462 476700, www.mstrust.org.uk

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ISBN 978-1-4731-0698-7

Accreditation

