

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Single Technology Appraisal

Peginterferon beta-1a for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis

Final scope

Remit/appraisal objective

To appraise the clinical and cost effectiveness of peginterferon beta-1a within its marketing authorisation for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis.

Background

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, neurological condition which affects the brain, optic nerves, and spinal cord. It often results in progressive neurological impairment and severe disability. Multiple sclerosis has an unpredictable course which varies in severity and rate of progression. Symptoms can include pain, disturbance to muscle tone including weakness or spasticity, chronic fatigue, unsteady gait, speech problems, incontinence, visual disturbance and cognitive impairment.

Approximately 100,000 people in England have multiple sclerosis, and about 5,000 people are diagnosed each year.¹ The relapsing form of multiple sclerosis affects approximately 85–90% of people at the time of diagnosis.^{2,3} It is characterised by periods of remission (when symptoms can be mild and are generally stable or disappear altogether) followed by relapses (which may or may not result in residual disability).

Current pharmacological management of relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis includes disease-modifying agents to reduce the frequency and severity of relapses and the rate of disease progression.

NICE recommends the following treatment options:

- ocrelizumab for active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis only if alemtuzumab is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable ([NICE TA533](#))
- interferon beta-1a and glatiramer acetate for relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis and interferon beta-1b for relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis with 2 or more relapses within the last 2 years ([NICE TA527](#))
- teriflunomide and dimethyl fumarate for active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis, only if people do not have highly active or rapidly evolving severe relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis ([NICE TA303](#) and [TA320](#) respectively)

- alemtuzumab for active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (NICE [TA312](#))
- fingolimod for highly active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis in adults who have an unchanged or increased relapse rate or ongoing severe relapses compared with the previous year despite treatment with beta interferon ([NICE TA254](#))
- natalizumab for rapidly evolving severe relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis ([NICE TA127](#))
- cladribine tablets for treating highly active multiple sclerosis only for rapidly evolving severe relapsing–remitting disease or disease that has responded inadequately to treatment with disease-modifying therapy ([NICE TA493](#)).

The technology

Peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy, Biogen Idec) is a pegylated interferon beta-1a. It is administered subcutaneously.

Peginterferon beta-1a has a marketing authorisation in the UK for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis.

Intervention(s)	Peginterferon beta-1a
Population	People with relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis

<p>Comparators</p>	<p>For people with relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alemtuzumab • dimethyl fumarate • teriflunomide • beta interferon • glatiramer acetate • ocrelizumab (only if alemtuzumab is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable) <p>For people with rapidly-evolving severe relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alemtuzumab • cladribine • natalizumab • ocrelizumab (only if alemtuzumab is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable) <p>For people with highly active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis despite previous treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alemtuzumab • fingolimod • ocrelizumab (only if alemtuzumab is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable)
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>The outcome measures to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relapse rate • severity of relapse • disability (for example, expanded disability status scale [EDSS]) • symptoms of multiple sclerosis (such as fatigue, cognition and visual disturbance) • freedom from disease activity (for example lesions on MRI scans) • mortality • adverse effects of treatment • health-related quality of life.

<p>Economic analysis</p>	<p>The reference case stipulates that the cost effectiveness of treatments should be expressed in terms of incremental cost per quality-adjusted life year.</p> <p>If the technology is likely to provide similar or greater health benefits at similar or lower cost than technologies recommended in published NICE technology appraisal guidance for the same indication, a cost-comparison may be carried out.</p> <p>The reference case stipulates that the time horizon for estimating clinical and cost effectiveness should be sufficiently long to reflect any differences in costs or outcomes between the technologies being compared.</p> <p>Costs will be considered from an NHS and Personal Social Services perspective.</p> <p>The availability of any commercial arrangements for the intervention or comparator technologies will be taken into account.</p>
<p>Other considerations</p>	<p>Guidance will only be issued in accordance with the marketing authorisation. Where the wording of the therapeutic indication does not include specific treatment combinations, guidance will be issued only in the context of the evidence that has underpinned the marketing authorisation granted by the regulator.</p> <p>If the evidence allows, the following subgroup of people will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people who could not tolerate previous treatment
<p>Related NICE recommendations and NICE Pathways</p>	<p>Related Technology Appraisals:</p> <p>Ocrelizumab for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2018). NICE technology appraisal guidance 533. Review date July 2021.</p> <p>Beta interferons and glatiramer acetate for treating multiple sclerosis (2018). NICE technology appraisal guidance 527. Review date June 2021.</p> <p>Cladribine tablets for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2017). NICE technology appraisal guidance 493. Review date December 2020.</p> <p>Dimethyl fumarate for treating relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (2014). NICE technology appraisal guidance 320. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Alemtuzumab for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2014). NICE technology appraisal guidance</p>

	<p>312. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Teriflunomide for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2014). NICE technology appraisal guidance 303. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Fingolimod for the treatment of highly active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2012). NICE technology appraisal guidance 254. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Natalizumab for the treatment of adults with highly active relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis (2007). NICE technology appraisal guidance 127. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Appraisals in development (including suspended appraisals)</p> <p>Autologous haematopoietic stem cell transplantation for treating multiple sclerosis. NICE technology appraisals guidance [ID1111]. Expected publication date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Ozanimod for treating relapsing multiple sclerosis. NICE technology appraisals guidance [ID1294]. Expected publication date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Related Guidelines:</p> <p>Multiple sclerosis in adults (2014). NICE guideline 186. Review date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Related Interventional Procedures:</p> <p>Percutaneous venoplasty for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency for multiple sclerosis (2012). NICE interventional procedure guidance 420.</p> <p>Related Quality Standards:</p> <p>Multiple sclerosis (2016) NICE quality standard QS108.</p> <p>Related NICE Pathways:</p> <p>Multiple sclerosis (2014) NICE pathway.</p>
<p>Related National Policy</p>	<p>The NHS Long Term Plan, 2019. NHS Long Term Plan</p> <p>NHS England (2017) Manual for Prescribed Specialised Services 2017/18. Chapter 11. Adult specialist neurosciences services</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/prescribed-specialised-services-manual-2.pdf</p> <p>NHS England (May 2014) Clinical commissioning policy: Disease Modifying Therapies for Patients with multiple</p>

[sclerosis \(MS\)](#).

Department of Health and Social Care, NHS Outcomes Framework 2016-2017 (published 2016): Domains 1-4.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-outcomes-framework-2016-to-2017>

References

1. Multiple Sclerosis Society (2018) [MS in the UK](#) [accessed Feb 2019].
2. Multiple Sclerosis Society (2019) [Types of MS](#) [accessed Feb 2019].
3. MS International Federation (2016) [Types of MS](#) [accessed Feb 2019].