

Clinical Commissioning Policy

Rituximab for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP), multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) & vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system (adults) [NHS England URN: 170026/P]

Publication date: November 2021 **version number:** 2.0

Commissioning position

Summary

Rituximab is not recommended to be available as a routine commissioning treatment option for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP), multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) & vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system (adults).

Equality statement

Promoting equality and addressing health inequalities are at the heart of NHS England's values. Throughout the development of the policies and processes cited in this document, we have:

- Given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic (as cited under the Equality Act 2010) and those who do not share it; and
- Given regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to, and outcomes from healthcare services and to ensure services are provided in an integrated way where this might reduce health inequalities.

Executive summary

Plain language summary

About chronic inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy, multifocal motor neuropathy and vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system

It is estimated that over 10 million people in the UK live with a neurological condition which has a significant impact on their lives. Of these people, around 350,000 will require help for most of their daily activities.

Peripheral neuropathy describes damage to, or a disease affecting, nerves which can impair sensation, movement, gland or organ function, or other aspects of a person's health depending on the type of nerve affected. Immune-mediated peripheral neuropathies include chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy, multifocal motor neuropathy and vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system.

About current treatment

Many people with immune mediated peripheral neuropathy which is impacting on their daily activities will respond to conventional treatments such as steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin or cyclophosphamide. Individuals who do not respond to these treatments can be referred to a specialist neurology centre for alternative treatments.

About the new treatment

Rituximab belongs to a group of drugs known as monoclonal antibodies. These drugs are sometimes called targeted biological therapies as they work by targeting

specific receptors on the surface of cells relevant to the cause of the disease.

What we have decided

NHS England has carefully reviewed the evidence to treat CIDP, MMN & vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system with rituximab. We have concluded that there is not enough evidence to make the treatment available at this time.

Links and updates to other policies

This document updates [NHS England » Commissioning Policy: Rituximab for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy \(CIDP\), multifocal motor neuropathy \(MMN\), vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system & IgM paraprotein-associated demyelinating neuropathy \(adults\)](#)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/rituximab-for-the-treatment-of-igm-paraproteinaemic-demyelinating-peripheral-neuropathy-in-adults-2/>

Committee discussion

See the committee papers ([link](#)) for full details of the evidence.

The condition

Immune-mediated peripheral neuropathies represent a spectrum of peripheral nerve disorders that can be classified according to time course, predominant involvement of motor/sensory fibres, distribution of deficits and clinically related parameters such as electrophysiology and serum antibodies. They include chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP), multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) and vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system.

Proposed treatments

Rituximab is a therapeutic monoclonal antibody which targets the CD20 surface marker present on the majority of B cell subsets, leading to their destruction and subsequent reduction in immunoglobulin production. Rituximab was initially developed for the treatment of B-cell lymphoma. However, it is now also used in a variety of B-cell driven autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis (Edwards *et al.* 2004; Gurcan *et al.* 2009).

Epidemiology and needs assessment

It is estimated that over 10 million people in the UK (adults and children) live with a neurological condition which has a significant impact on their lives. Of these, around 350,000 will require help for most of their daily activities due to a neurological condition (The Neurological Alliance, 2003). A small minority will require treatment from a specialist neurology team.

Evidence summary

NHS England has concluded that there is not sufficient evidence to support a policy for the routine commissioning of this treatment for the indication.

Policy review date

This document will be reviewed when information is received which indicates that the policy requires revision. If a review is needed due to a new evidence base then a new Preliminary Policy Proposal needs to be submitted by contacting england.CET@nhs.net.

Our policies provide access on the basis that the prices of therapies will be at or below the prices and commercial terms submitted for consideration at the time evaluated. NHS England reserves the right to review policies where the supplier of an intervention is no longer willing to

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supply the treatment to the NHS at or below this price and to review policies where the supplier is unable or unwilling to match price reductions in alternative therapies.

Definitions

CIDP	A neurological disorder characterised by progressive weakness and impaired sensory function in the legs and arms. The disorder is sometimes called chronic relapsing polyneuropathy. Chronic indicates that condition occurs over a long period of time. Inflammatory indicates that the nerve damage occurs due to the presence of inflammation, a complex process involving the immune system. Demyelinating indicates the damage affects the protein coating (myelin) around the nerve fibres. Polyradiculoneuropathy means that the condition affects more than one nerve.
Rituximab	a monoclonal antibody that targets CD-20, which is a cell surface marker that is widely expressed on B-cells, leading to B cell depletion.
MMN	an immune-mediated neuropathy that affects the body's motor nerves. These are the nerves which control the muscles and the condition makes it hard for them to send electrical signals resulting in arms and legs feeling weak, causing muscle cramps, spasms and twitches. MMN is not fatal and, in most cases, treatment can make muscles stronger, although the condition remains slowly progressive.
Vasculitis	Inflammation of the blood vessels of the peripheral nervous system, also referred to as non-systemic vasculitic neuropathy (NSVN), Vasculitis restricted to the peripheral nervous system - the part of the nervous system that consists of the nerves and ganglia on the outside of the brain and spinal cord.

References

Edwards JCW, Szczepański L, Szechiński J, Filipowicz-Sosnowska A, Emery P, Close DR, Stevens RM, Shaw T. Efficacy of B-Cell Targeted Therapy with Rituximab in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2004; 350(25): 2572-81.

Gurcan HM, Keskin DB, Stern JNH, Nitzberg MA, Shekhani H, Ahmed AR. A review of the current use of rituximab in autoimmune diseases. *International Immunopharmacology*, 2009. 9(1): 10-25.