

Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) Activity Update

Reforms to the way in which the CDF operates were introduced in July 2016 following full public consultation. The reformed CDF now provides:

- An early funding source, via Interim Funding Agreements, for treatments that receive a provisional positive recommendation from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), without them having to wait for NICE Final Guidance to be published and their subsequent entry into the routine commissioning system.
- A source of funding, via Managed Access Agreements, for treatments that show clinical promise and where further data collection is needed in order to resolve uncertainty around their effectiveness.
- A continued source of funding for legacy CDF drugs whilst they await a final appraisal recommendation from NICE or NHS England (in the case of the off-label drug indications).

Since the new CDF began, approximately 22,900 patients have been registered to receive treatment with 64 drugs treating 111 different cancer indications¹. Of these patients, over 6,300 have benefitted from earlier access to treatments as a result of our interim funding arrangements (IFA). In addition, over 5,600 patients have been able to access new treatments as a result of Managed Access Agreements (MAA) we have negotiated with companies at significantly discounted prices to the NHS, whilst further data is collected, which will inform a future NICE technology appraisal. Note: these figures include notifications up to the end of June 2018.

Eighteen MAAs have been agreed within the new CDF. Two MAA treatments have been re-appraised by NICE, with additional clinical trial and real world data from Public Health England, as part of the CDF exit process. Both treatments have been recommended for routine commissioning, thus demonstrating the benefit of allowing earlier access for patients to promising new drugs while further data is collected to evaluate their effectiveness.

CDF patient notifications² for 2017-18

During the fourth quarter of 2017-18, 3,325 patients were newly notified to the CDF, taking the annual number of patient notifications to 10,549. Table 1 provides a summary of monthly notifications for the full financial year, broken down by category. The total numbers demonstrate a general upward trend in the number of patients registered each month to receive new CDF treatments. During 2017-18 the number of patients registered to receive:

- An interim funded treatment has fluctuated in response to the number of drugs funded in the CDF.
- A MAA treatment has tripled, reflecting the number of new indications that have entered the CDF.
- Old CDF transition drugs are successfully transitioning into routine commissioning following positive clinical and cost effectiveness recommendations from NICE.

2017/18	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Interim funding agreements	211	191	247	166	205	222	168	184	188	240	239	228	2,489
Managed access agreements ³	409	495	719	192	185	213	370	400	331	539	515	616	8,060
Transition drugs ⁴				366	391	370	376	372	253	394	259	295	
TOTAL	620	686	966	724	781	805	914	956	772	1,173	1,013	1,139	10,549

Table 1: CDF notifications April 2017- March 2018

¹ Based on all notifications received since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year.

² The number of patients registered to receive treatment. This may differ from the number of patients who receive treatment. This figure does not include patients previously notified, whose treatment continues.

³ Figures for managed access agreements and transition drugs were combined in quarter one, due to the small number of drugs reported.

⁴ Treatments funded by the old CDF which are either undergoing NICE re-appraisal or review via NHS England's clinical prioritisation process

Quarter 4, 2017-2018

At the end of the 2017-18 financial year, the CDF was operating within its funding envelope.

Total CDF Budget 2017-18 ⁵	£340m
	Cumulative YTD Totals ⁶
	Quarter 4
	Actual (£000)
Interim funding agreements	39,405
Managed access agreements	50,181
Transition drugs	106,179
Tail end delisted drugs ⁷	6,255
Total drug cost	202,020
Rebate under ECM	0

Table 2: CDF expenditure April 2017 to March 2018

New interim funding arrangements and managed access agreements make up a growing proportion of CDF spend and this trend is expected to continue.

Throughout 2017-18, NICE has approved a greater number of cancer drugs for routine commissioning than previously. This has led to a short-term saving in the CDF, while other budgets have required significant extra cancer drugs spending. Overall, cancer drug spending has continued to rise. This is particularly the case for CDF transition drugs, which are successfully moving into routine commissioning following positive clinical and cost effectiveness recommendations from NICE.

These figures should be treated with caution if used to predict the outcome of future quarters and are non-binding on the part of NHS England.

Please forward any queries about the figures in this report to: england.cdfteam@nhs.net.

⁵ Two per cent (2%) of the total CDF budget is reserved for administrative costs.

⁶ Only cumulative figures are available to ensure the confidentiality of spend for individual companies as they enter and leave the CDF.

⁷ Prior to the reforms, a number of drugs were removed (delisted) from the CDF. Any patients who had already been approved or had started treatment prior to them being removed from the CDF have been able to continue to receive these treatments until such point that they or their clinician deems it appropriate to stop. Prescribing decisions remain the responsibility of a patient's supervising clinician, in discussion with the patient.