

Cancer Drugs Fund Activity Update

The Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) provides:

- An early funding source, via Interim Funding Agreements (IFA), 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 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 to resolve uncertainty around their effectiveness.
- A continued source of funding for legacy CDF drugs before they move into routine commissioning, and in the case of the off-label drug indications from NHS England.

Since the new approach to funding cancer drugs began in July 2016, approximately 34,700 patients have been registered to receive treatment with 75 drugs treating 149 different cancer indications¹. Of these patients, over 7,900 have benefitted from earlier access to treatments through IFA. In addition, over 14,000 patients have been able to access new treatments because 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 2019.

Thirty-one MAAs have been agreed between companies and the CDF, since July 2016. 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 in the patient population that was referred to the CDF. This demonstrates the benefit of allowing earlier access for patients to promising new drugs while further data is collected to evaluate their effectiveness.

CDF patient notifications² - Quarter 4, 2018-19

During 2018-19, 11,160 patients were newly notified to the CDF. Table 1 provides a summary of monthly notifications, broken down by category.

2018-19	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Interim funding agreements	121	220	166	244	116	78	125	133	80	79	68	130	1,560
Managed access agreements	627	605	624	623	618	556	560	496	535	734	655	722	7,355
Transition drugs ³	266	329	247	190	162	144	151	171	139	143	153	150	2,245
TOTAL	1,014	1,154	1,037	1,057	896	778	836	800	754	956	876	1,002	11,160

Table 1: CDF notifications April 2018 to March 2019

NICE has completed the appraisal of the final 33 licensed drugs which have transitioned from the old CDF. Of these licensed topics:

- 30 indications recommended for routine commissioning;
- 2 indications were not recommended for routine commissioning - vismodegib for treating basal cell carcinoma and vandetinib for treating medullary thyroid cancer; and,

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

² The number of patients notified 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 Treatments funded by the old CDF which are either undergoing NICE re-appraisal or review via NHS England's clinical prioritisation process

- The appraisal for one indication - bortezomib for treating multiple myeloma after second or subsequent relapse - was terminated because no evidence submission was received from the manufacturer.

CDF Spend - Quarter 4, 2018-2019

At the end of 2018-19 financial year, the CDF has operated within its funding envelope.

Total CDF Budget 2018-19 ⁴	£340m
	Cumulative YTD Totals ⁵
	Quarter 4
	Actual (£000)
Interim funding agreements	43,956
Managed access agreements	168,241
Transition drugs	26,186
Tail end delisted drugs ⁶	1,859
Total drug cost	240,241
Rebate under ECM	0

Table 2: CDF expenditure April 2018 to March 2019

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. The dynamic nature of the cancer drug landscape and NICE recommendations means that forecasts of CDF expenditure are variable and subject to change. The CDF Expenditure Control Mechanism (ECM) is an integral part of the new approach to the appraisal and funding of cancer drugs and NHS England will provide further updates on the ECM, as per our usual processes.

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

⁴ Two per cent (2%) of the total CDF budget is reserved for administrative costs.

⁵ Only cumulative figures are available to ensure the confidentiality of spend for individual companies as they enter and leave the CDF.

⁶ Prior to the reforms, several 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.