

Specialised commissioning, health & justice, armed forces and sexual assault services publications briefing note

Title(s) and ref no.	Service specification for the delivery of Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) Therapy (all indications, all ages)
Publication type	Service specification
New document?	<p>Yes, update to combine two existing service specifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim specification for the delivery of Axicabtagene Ciloleucelel Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR T) Therapy for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma 2. Interim specification for the delivery of Tisagenlecleucelel Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR T) Therapy for - B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) that is refractory, in relapse post-stem cell transplant or in second or later relapse in patients up to 25 years of age - Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) that is relapsed or refractory (r/r) after two or more lines of systemic therapy in adults.
Activity	Final publication
Brief Summary	<p>This Specification relates to children, teenagers and young adults (TYA) and adult patients who are within the commissioning responsibility of NHS England and who are undergoing Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) ordinarily resident in England or otherwise the commissioning responsibility of NHS England.</p> <p>Since the creation of the National Innovative Treatments Team the original interim service specifications for CAR-T have been edited and combined into one Service Specification to reflect more up to date clinical practice and patient pathway, and to include the newer CAR-T therapies that have since been launched.</p> <p>The combining of the service specifications will allow for a more streamlined approach; the delivery of the service has not changed as a result. The process is now clearer, and wording changes now give clinicians more autonomy</p>

	<p>on how patients are managed. Over the last 7 years since the introduction of CAR-T into the NHS a lot of clinical experience has been gained, and it is reasonable to allow the clinical community to use their expertise and clinical judgement in certain elements of the CAR-T patient management. An example of this is for example at which point a patient may need ITU referral. No significant material changes have been made.</p> <p>Currently CAR-T care is provided at commissioned CAR-T centres only. There has been an expansion programme in place since 2018 which completed in 2024. There are now 23 CAR-T centres across the country which cover a wide range of geographical areas.</p>
Financial Impact	These updates to the service specification are cost neutral to commissioners.
Governance	<p>The updated service specification and the commissioning plan have been discussed at the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highly Specialised Services Oversight Group August 2024 - Patient and Public Voice Advisory Group in July 2025 - Rare Diseases Advisory Group August 2025 - Clinical Priorities Advisory Group on Xth November 2025. - National Commissioning Group on Xth November 2025
Lead commissioner	Kiran Moyo, National Senior Manager Innovative Treatments Kiran.moyo@nhs.net
Communications and engagement lead	Rachel Lord Rachel.lord@nhs.net
Responsible director	James Palmer james.palmer@nhs.net
National Director approved?	John Stewart john.stewart6@nhs.net
Finance approved?	Doug Siebert doug.siebert@nhs.net
Other approvals	<i>Cleared by Spec Comm National Commissioning Group in Nov 25</i>
Expected media / stakeholder reaction	There is not anticipated to be any media interest in this specification. There are no changes to the scope or eligibility for the service, and no plans to change the provider landscape as a result of this specification.