

Quick reference guide

Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (part review of technology appraisal guidance 75 and 106)

NOTE: This guidance should be read in conjunction with the following NICE guidance:

- NICE technology appraisal guidance 75 (TA75) 'Interferon alfa (pegylated and non-pegylated) and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C' (which covers moderate to severe hepatitis C)
- NICE technology appraisal guidance 106 (TA106) 'Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of mild chronic hepatitis C'.

This appraisal addresses extensions to the marketing authorisations for peginterferon alfa-2a and peginterferon alfa-2b. This guidance updates and replaces:

- section 1.2, bullet 3 only, of TA75
- section 1.4 of TA75 for adults who are eligible for shortened courses of combination therapy (as described in section 2 of the current guidance)
- section 1.7, bullet 1 only, of TA75
- sections 1.4 and 1.5 of TA106.

All other recommendations in TA75 and TA106 still stand.

Guidance

- 1 Combination therapy with peginterferon alfa (2a or 2b) and ribavirin is recommended as a treatment option for adults with chronic hepatitis C:
 - who have been treated previously with peginterferon alfa (2a or 2b) and ribavirin in combination, or with peginterferon alfa monotherapy, and whose condition either did not respond to treatment or responded initially to treatment but subsequently relapsed **or**
 - who are co-infected with HIV.
- 2 Shortened courses of combination therapy with peginterferon alfa (2a or 2b) and ribavirin are recommended for the treatment of adults with chronic hepatitis C who:
 - have a rapid virological response to treatment at week 4 that is identified by a highly sensitive test **and**
 - are considered suitable for a shortened course of treatment.
- 3 When deciding on the duration of combination therapy, clinicians should take into account the licensed indication of the chosen drug (peginterferon alfa-2a or peginterferon alfa-2b), the genotype of the hepatitis C virus, the viral load at the start of treatment and the response to treatment (as indicated by the viral load).

NICE technology appraisal guidance 200

The guidance was developed using the NICE multiple technology appraisal process. NICE technology appraisal guidance is about the use of new and existing medicines and treatments in the NHS in England and Wales.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA200).

- Costing template and report to estimate the national and local savings and costs associated with implementation.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA200

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- ‘Understanding NICE guidance’ – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or ‘Understanding NICE guidance’, phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote:

- N2302 (quick reference guide)
- N2303 (‘Understanding NICE guidance’).

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see www.nice.org.uk

- Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of mild chronic hepatitis C (extension of technology appraisal guidance 75). NICE technology appraisal guidance 106 (2006). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA106
- Interferon alfa (pegylated and non-pegylated) and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (review and extension of technology appraisal guidance 14). NICE technology appraisal guidance 75 (2004). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA75

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in July 2013. Information about the progress of a review will be available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA200

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

© National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2010. All rights reserved. This material may be freely reproduced for educational and not-for-profit purposes. No reproduction by or for commercial organisations, or for commercial purposes, is allowed without the express written permission of NICE.