

Our Ref: ID 1764

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request - Sativex Cannabis Spray (additional request)

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 11th September 2020.

You Asked for:

“The advice is very clear but I wanted to raise a couple of further points.

First, it seems some of the Multiple sclerosis (MS) consultants at Walton are unaware of the funding position which is rather concerning. Is there anything the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) / the pan Mersey CCG’s can do to remind them / the hospital that the funding is available?

Second, one of the consultants said that there is an issue with prescribing for the simple reason that there is no one to carry out the required review after the 4 week trial period because of coronavirus. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance specifies that a 0 to 10 patient-reported numeric rating scale is used and suggests the patient is the primary reviewer:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng144/chapter/Recommendations#spasticity>

The commissioning policy states ‘The tertiary centre will review the outcome of the trial at four weeks and ensure the patient is established and stable on treatment before transferring prescribing to primary care. A prescription for a further one month’s supply will be issued to the patient to facilitate the transition to primary care.’

Who would be responsible for doing that review? Would it have to be a doctor or could it be an MS nurse? Could it be done by phone or video link? The worry is that if Walton are not prescribing the drug because there is no one available to review it that effectively means the drug is, in reality, unavailable. That cannot be right. Surely alternative arrangements need to be made by Walton for review to ensure this drug is made available to those who might need it - in accordance with the commissioning policy in place.”

Our Response:

I have discussed your query surrounding Sativex Cannabis Spray for Multiple sclerosis (MS) with our Medicines Management Team and our Contracts Team. They have confirmed that MS services are supported by NHS England and that they should be able to support you with your query. I have included their contact details below for your information:

Email – england.contactus@nhs.net

Telephone – 0300 311 2233

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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