



UPDATE ON ACCESS TO VERTEX CF MEDICINES IN ENGLAND

Thursday 15 February 2018

We share the CF community's sense of urgency on access to new Vertex medicines and we are committed to working with the NHS to find a sustainable funding solution. That is why we have proposed to the Government a bold new portfolio approach that could make our medicines available to patients as soon as possible. It provides budget certainty and value to the NHS – and offers fair and equal access for CF patients to precision medicines that are tailored to specific genetic mutations.

Our proposal follows the recent announcement that two of our triple-combination next generation correctors are going forward into phase III clinical trials. At Vertex we are developing medicines to treat 90% of CF patients who will one day be eligible for treatment able to treat the underlying cause of the disease.

We believe that our approach is a first for England, and a first for the UK. We have already demonstrated it works in other countries – and offers CF patients who could benefit, access to ORKAMBI® (lumacaftor/ivacaftor). The proposed portfolio approach is for England but we continue to engage in meaningful discussions with the devolved nations.

Scotland

Vertex met with representatives of the NHS National Procurement Scotland (NPS) and the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) to discuss whether they would be agreeable, in principle, to assessing a portfolio approach. Their feedback to us has been that there are challenges to this as the current policy framework cannot support a portfolio assessment, despite recent changes to access to medicines policy in Scotland designed to make the system more flexible.

Vertex will continue to work with the SMC, to explore all options. As part of this, at the earliest opportunity we will put in a financial proposal for the whole portfolio through these processes.

Wales

In recent months Vertex has met with key executive agencies of Government in Wales, including the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) and NHS Wales, and we continue to work with stakeholders to find a solution allowing access to our medicines for people with CF in Wales.

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Northern Ireland

Vertex met with Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) to explore the possibility of a portfolio approach. Despite initial interest from the HSCNI in a portfolio, their current position is to defer to current NICE guidance thereby negating the potential to secure a solution for all patients in Northern Ireland.

For people with CF every day counts, and we want to get around the table with all parties as soon as possible to discuss our proposal.

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