

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	8 th October 2009		
Appraisal	Novel oramucosal (Abstral®▼, Effentora®▼) and nasal (Instanyl®▼) fentanyl for breakthrough pain associated with cancer.		
Details	NETAG was requested to conduct an appraisal and issue of a treatment recommendation regarding novel fentanyl products within their licensed indication for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain.		
Recommendation	The novel fentanyl products Abstral®▼, Effentora®▼, and Instanyl®▼ are not recommended for use within NHS North East.		
Clinical evidence summary	The group was concerned by the lack of published evidence, the absence of comparisons with standard non-fentanyl opioid analgesics, and other deficiencies with individual studies. The group was particularly concerned about the potential safety problems presented by these products, which provide relatively high doses of a potent opioid and which are associated with complicated titration and maintenance instructions.		
Cost analysis summary	Each of the new products is substantially more costly than commonly used non-fentanyl alternative treatment options. It was considered that the net cost impact from use of these products would probably be relatively modest due to an expected low rate of use, as indicated by the current infrequent use of fentanyl lozenges. However, there was concern that the net cost could escalate if the new products were used more frequently than anticipated, as occurred with fentanyl patches.		
Financial impact	PCT	% relevant patient population	Estimated annual costs or savings
	County Durham		No cost impact
	Darlington		
	Gateshead		
	Hartlepool		
	Middlesbrough		
	Newcastle		
	North Tees		
	North Tyneside		
	Northumberland Care		
	Redcar & Cleveland		
	South Tyneside		
	Sunderland Teaching		
Further research or information	Local medicines management teams, or similar, should ensure compliance with this recommendation.		

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