

Ein cyf/Our ref: NICE TAs to March 2013  
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BY EMAIL

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**TO: All prescribers  
County lead pharmacists  
Assistant Director of Nursing (Practice)  
Hywel Dda Health Board global email**

Dear Colleague

The appraisals listed below have been published by the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE). They have been assessed for local implementation and their place in therapy established as described.

**Please ensure that your teams are fully aware of this information.**

In accordance with the provisions of Welsh Health Circulars WHC 2003 (109) and 2005 (22) (see [WHC \(2003\) 109](#); [WHC \(2005\) 22](#)) the drugs have been added to the Health Board's formulary, <http://hywelddahb.inform.wales.nhs.uk/>, and are available for prescribing in accordance with the guidance.

Please ensure that the appropriate audit form is completed for all patient initiations on these technologies in the next 12 months. You will find the audit forms on the [Clinical Systems \(NICE / TA AWMMSG appraisal audits\)](#) pages of the Health Board's Intranet: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/43199>

Pharmacy has been notified of the guidance and you should be aware that a prescription that falls outside the recommendations of the guidance will be discussed with the prescriber. Failure to complete the audit form may result in a delay in dispensing.

**NICE TA277, March 2013: [Methylnaltrexone for treating opioid induced bowel dysfunction in people with advanced illness receiving palliative care](#) (terminated appraisal)**

This appraisal has been terminated by NICE because no evidence submission was received from the manufacturer of the technology. Methylnaltrexone is currently included in the Hywel Dda Policy 160 Management of Opioid Induced Constipation in Palliative Care for the treatment of resistant opioid-induced constipation: 'Methylnaltrexone may be considered for patients with opioid-induced constipation who have not responded to standard recommended treatment (above) in optimal doses.' This policy can be found at <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/160ManagementOfOpioidInducedConstipationinPalliativeCareversion1.pdf>. Methylnaltrexone should only be prescribed on the advice of the specialist palliative care team.

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**Mr Chris Martin**  
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**Yr Athro/Professor Trevor Purt**

Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Hywel Dda  
Hywel Dda Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda Health Board operates a smoke free environment

**NICE TA276, March 2013: [Colistimethate sodium and tobramycin dry powders for inhalation for treating pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis](#)**

Specialist initiation by consultant paediatricians or specialist adult CF consultants (tertiary care) as per NICE recommendations.

**NICE TA275, February 2013: [Stroke and systemic embolism \(prevention, non-valvular atrial fibrillation\) - apixaban](#)**

The Hywel Dda Position Statement on the New Oral Anticoagulants is being updated to include this guidance and will be discussed in the June 2013 MMG meeting.

**NICE TA274, February 2013: [Macular oedema \(diabetic\) – ranibizumab](#)**

The financial & clinical implications of this TA are being addressed by the Board.

**NICE TA269, December 2012: [Melanoma \(BRAF V600 mutation positive, unresectable metastatic\) - vemurafenib](#)**

Vemurafenib is prescribed by AMBU consultant oncologists for Hywel Dda Health Board patients.

**NICE TA268, December 2012: [Ipilimumab for previously treated advanced \(unresectable or metastatic\) melanoma](#)**

Ipilimumab is prescribed by AMBU consultant oncologists for Hywel Dda Health Board patients.

**NICE TA267, [Chronic heart failure - ivabradine](#)**

Ivabradine has been added to the Chronic Heart Failure Pathway.

**NICE TA266, November 2012: [Cystic fibrosis - mannitol dry powder for inhalation](#)**

Initial assessment and prescribing will be by the patient's consultant. Mannitol dry powder for inhalation will be added to the Primary Care High Cost Drug List.

**NICE TA265, October 2012: [Denosumab for the prevention of skeletal-related events in adults with bone metastases from solid tumours](#)**

Denosumab is prescribed and administered to appropriate patients in the oncology units in Hywel Dda Health Board and ABMU.

If you have any questions relating to the guidance or this process, please contact Sue Beach, Lead Clinical Development Pharmacist, on 01554 783084 or 0777 21 77 655 or email [sue.beach@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.beach@wales.nhs.uk).



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