SPECIALISED COMMISSIONING - CLINICAL EVIDENCE EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR A PROPOSITION FOR A CLINICAL COMMISSIONING POLICY FOR ROUTINE COMMISSIONING

URN: F01X08

TITLE: Treatments for Graft versus Host disease (GvHD) following Haematopoietic

Stem Cell Transplantation

Note: GvHD is acute Graft versus Host disease and cGvHD is chronic Graft versus

Host disease

CRG: Blood and Marrow Transplant

NPOC: Blood and Infection Lead: Claire Foreman

Date: 17th February 2016

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning

Extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) for aGvHD and cGvHD

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 1. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review	The panel noted that evidence for use in acute GvHD is less well developed than for chronic GvHD and is based on a small number of studies with relatively small numbers of patients. The results showed a significant clinical benefit, but with a wide confidence interval. The most likely response rate (partial and complete) probably lies between half and two thirds of patients. There was a trend for increased overall survival. Complete response was less likely in more severely affected patients. Responses were probably highest in GvHD affecting

		the skin, gut and liver.
Population subgroups 2. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	The population subgroups defined in the policy are the same or similar as those for which there is evidence in the evidence review	The policy criteria identifies the group of patients with GvHD for whom first line treatments are no longer appropriate.
Outcomes - benefits 3. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	The benefits include reduced symptoms, reduced steroid dose and there may be a survival benefit.
Outcomes – harms 4. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	ECP is generally considered to be a relatively safe intervention.
The intervention 5. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review	
The comparator	No. a construction	The (ease = ()
6. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator No comparator	The 'comparators' are other second line treatments and these are widely used in the NHS at present although the evidence supporting their use is often less robust than for ECP and

7. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.	their cost may be significant.
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.	Advice is to routinely commission ECP for acute and chronic GvHD.

Infliximab for aGvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 8. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is	The evidence available is very weak and harms appear very significant.

evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review.	
Population subgroups 9. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	No subgroups defined	
Outcomes - benefits 10. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review do not support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	The panel noted that the very limited evidence available for the use of Infliximab in patients with Acute GvHD. The evidence that was available did not show clear evidence of benefit.
Outcomes – harms 11. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are not reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	The panel noted the significant risk of infection in the use of Infliximab in this patient group, and were concerned at the likely reduction in quality of life and length of life for those patients for whom the treatment was not very effective and serious infection occurred.

The intervention 12. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review.	
The comparator		
13. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
	No comparator	
14. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.		
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the		The clinical panel noted that the clinical pressure to use infliximab would be removed if ECP were routinely available. The evidence to support the effectiveness of infliximab is particularly weak. The evidence base is poorly developed and the net benefits reported appear to be so marginal that infliximab cannot be supported for routine commissioning. The panel advised that rituximab should not be routinely commissioned for aGvHD.

need for policy review.	

Etanercept for Acute GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning.

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 15. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review.	The evidence for entercept tended to show some benefit in aGvHD in combination with steroids and for steroid refractory patients. A small study in steroid refractory patients showed a 50% response rate, but no complete responses.
Population subgroups 16. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	No subgroups defined	
Outcomes - benefits 17. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review do not support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	The panel noted that the very limited evidence available for the use of Etanercept in patients with Acute GvHD. The evidence that was available tended to show some evidence of benefit.

Outcomes – harms 18. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are not reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	The panel noted the possible risk of infection in the use of Etanercept in this patient group. The small studies available reported that there may be no increased risk of infection or a significant increased risk of infection.
The intervention 19. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review.	
The comparator 20. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
21. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.	No comparator	
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in		The clinical panel noted that the clinical pressure to use Etanercept would be removed if ECP were routinely available. The evidence to support routine commissioning is weak. However, the evidence base is poorly developed and it is possible that entercept

clinical practice	could be effective in a
Challenges in ensuring	proportion of patients
policy is applied	where other treatment
appropriately	options are lacking.
Issues with regard to value	
for money	
Likely changes in the	
pathway of care and	
therapeutic advances that	
may result in the need for	
policy review.	

Alemtuzumab for Acute GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning.

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 22. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review.	The evidence showed possible benefit for Alemtuzumab in aGvHD. Studies showed variable outcomes with some significant response rates but one study showed a 100% mortality at 40 days in the 5 patients who responded initially.
Population subgroups 23. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	No subgroups defined	
Outcomes - benefits 24. Are the clinical benefits	The clinical benefits	The panel noted that the

demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	demonstrated in the evidence review do not support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	very limited evidence available for the use of Alemtuzumab in patients with Acute GvHD. The evidence that was available did not show clear evidence of benefit.
Outcomes – harms 25. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are not reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	The panel noted the significant risk of infection in the use of Alemtuzumab in this patient group and severe harms identified in the evidence, including very high mortality.
The intervention 26. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review.	
The comparator		
27. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
	No comparator	
28. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.		
Advice The Panel should provide		The clinical panel noted that the clinical pressure to
advice on matters relating to		use Alemtuzumab would be

ed if ECP were ely available.
vidence to support e commissioning is However, the lace base is poorly
pped and it is possible emtuzumab could be we in a proportion of its where other ent options are g. Access to ECP be preferable.

Pentostatin for Acute GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for not routine commissioning.

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 29. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	The ineligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of lack of effectiveness or inadequate evidence of effectiveness demonstrated in the evidence review.	
Population subgroups 30. Are any population	No subgroups defined.	

subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?		
Outcomes - benefits 31. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	A2: The lack of benefit or absence of evidence of benefit demonstrated in the evidence review is consistent with the ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	
Outcomes – harms 32. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	A: The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	
The intervention 33. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	A: The intervention described in the policy is the same or similar as in the evidence review.	
The comparator		
34. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
	No comparator	
35. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS		

and are they suitable for informing policy development.	
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.	

Mesenchymal stem cells for Acute GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for not routine commissioning.

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 36. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available	The ineligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of lack of effectiveness or inadequate evidence of effectiveness demonstrated in the evidence review.	

considered in the evidence review?		
Population subgroups 37. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	No subgroups defined.	
Outcomes - benefits 38. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The lack of benefit or absence of evidence of benefit demonstrated in the evidence review is consistent with the ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	
Outcomes – harms 39. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy.	
The intervention 40. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy is the same or similar as in the evidence review.	
The comparator 41. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	

42. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.	No comparator	
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.		

Pentostatin for Chronic GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 43. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which	There is evidence of effectiveness in refractory cGvHD. The studies are

evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	there is evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review	small and the effect size varies.
Population subgroups 44. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	The population subgroups defined in the policy are the same or similar as those for which there is evidence in the evidence review	
Outcomes - benefits 45. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	
Outcomes – harms 46. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	There is a significant risk of infection.
The intervention 47. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review	
The comparator 48. Is the comparator in the policy	No comparator	

the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
49. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.		
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.		

Rituximab for Chronic GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning

Question	Conclusion of the panel	If there is a difference between the evidence review and the policy please give a commentary
The population 50. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of	There is evidence suggesting effectiveness from a number of small studies. There is a wide range of possible response rates and overall the

evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	effectiveness considered in the evidence review	evidence is of poor quality. However, studies all report a probable benefit in terms of partial or complete responses in a proportion of patients.
Population subgroups 51. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	The population subgroups defined in the policy are the same or similar as those for which there is evidence in the evidence review	
Outcomes - benefits 52. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	
Outcomes – harms 53. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	There is an increased risk of infection.
The intervention 54. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review	

The comparator 55. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator	
56. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.		
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.		Clinical Panel advises that the use of rituximab restricted to subgroup where effective. Note that if ECP is available, use of rituximab would be limited.

Imatinib for Chronic GvHD

The panel were presented a policy proposal for routine commissioning

Question	Conclusion of the	If there is a difference
	panel	between the evidence
		review and the policy

		please give a commentary
The population 57. Are the eligible and ineligible populations defined in the policy consistent with the evidence of effectiveness, and evidence of lack of effectiveness; and where evidence is not available for the populations considered in the evidence review?	The eligible population(s) defined in the policy are the same or similar to the population(s) for which there is evidence of effectiveness considered in the evidence review	Studies of Imatinib are small and the evidence limited. There appears to be some benefit that is probably limited to patients with mild pulmonary disease and may be effective in patients with skin disease.
Population subgroups 58. Are any population subgroups defined in the policy and if so do they match the subgroups considered by the evidence review?	The population subgroups defined in the policy are the same or similar as those for which there is evidence in the evidence review	
Outcomes - benefits 59. Are the clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review consistent with the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical benefits demonstrated in the evidence review support the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	
Outcomes – harms 60. Are the clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review reflected in the eligible and / or ineligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy?	The clinical harms demonstrated in the evidence review are reflected in the eligible population and/or subgroups presented in the policy	There are adverse effects although risk of infection was not highlighted in the small studies reported.

The intervention 61. Is the intervention described in the policy the same or similar as the intervention for which evidence is presented in the evidence review?	The intervention described in the policy the same or similar as in the evidence review	
The comparator 62. Is the comparator in the policy the same as that in the evidence review?	No comparator No comparator	
63. Are the comparators in the evidence review the most plausible comparators for patients in the English NHS and are they suitable for informing policy development.		
Advice The Panel should provide advice on matters relating to the evidence base and policy development and prioritisation. Advice may cover: • Uncertainty in the evidence base • Challenges in the clinical interpretation and applicability of policy in clinical practice • Challenges in ensuring policy is applied appropriately • Issues with regard to value for money • Likely changes in the pathway of care and therapeutic advances that may result in the need for policy review.		

Overall conclusions of the panel

The following indications should progress for routine commissioning: Extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) for patients with acute GvHD and ECP, pentostatin, rituximab and imatinib for patients with chronic GvHD.

The following indications should progress for not routine commissioning: infliximab, etanercept, inolimomab, alemtuzumab, pentostatin or mesenchymal stem cells for patients with acute GvHD.

The policy should be updated to reflect the conclusions of the panel for each of the interventions for GvHD and progress to stakeholder testing

Report approved by: David Black Clinical panel chair (panel B) 17/2/16