

1.	<p>Treatment & Condition</p> <p>Peginterferon beta-1a for treating relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis</p>
2.	<p>Associated appraisal body & Summary of ruling</p> <p>NICE Technology Appraisal guidance (TA624) March 2020</p> <p>Peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy) is recommended within its marketing authorisation as an option for treating relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis in adults.</p>
3.	<p>Number of people in Northern Ireland expected to take up service/therapy</p> <p>The resource impact statement that accompanies TA624 indicates that the implementation of this guidance is not expected to have a significant impact on resources or projected patient numbers. This therapy is a further treatment option for patients with this condition. This drug has been commissioned since 2015 for people with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis as a first line treatment or as an alternative when other first line treatments are not tolerated. It is not anticipated that practice will change substantially as a result of this guidance.</p> <p>Peginterferon beta-1a involves less frequent injections than other beta interferons, so improved choice for people with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.</p>
4.	<p>Patient Access Scheme Availability</p> <p>(Yes/No) - Not applicable</p>
5.	<p>Infrastructure Requirements</p> <p>It is anticipated that infrastructure requirements will be minimal.</p> <p>Infrastructure requirements for the delivery of all Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs) for MS are reviewed annually as part of routine commissioning arrangements for supporting growth in the provision of these therapies.</p>
6.	<p>Expected implementation period</p> <p>There is no impediment to immediate implementation for new patients.</p>
7.	<p>Commissioning arrangements</p> <p>This drug will be formally commissioned by HSCB/PHA via the Specialist Services Commissioning Team.</p>
8.	<p>Monitoring arrangements</p> <p>The HSC Board has robust arrangements in place for the monthly monitoring of all DMTs (patient numbers, costs and waiting times). This regime will be included within the monitoring information.</p>

	<p>Monitoring returns are reviewed by the Specialist Services Commissioning Team each month.</p>
9.	<p>DoH (NI) Legislative/Policy Caveats</p> <p>This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.</p>