The New Therapies Subgroup discussed the above drug and indication. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:

The New Therapies Subgroup of the GMMMG considered the use of modafinil (Provigil®▼) for the management of chronic shift-work sleep disorder.

The group does not recommend the use of modafinil for chronic shift-work sleep disorder.

The group noted the relatively poor quality of clinical evidence for modafinil in this indication and recommend practical measures that focus on work patterns and patient behaviour.

The group would also like to make prescribers aware that as of August 2010 the license for modafinil is restricted to sleepiness associated with narcolepsy only and it should no longer be used for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea or chronic shift work sleep disorder due to safety concerns, relating to psychiatric disorders, skin and subcutaneous tissue reactions as well as significant off-label use and potential for abuse.

According to set criteria modafinil was deemed to be a low priority for funding.

Review date: September 2014

* Unless superseded by NICE guidance or substantial and significant new evidence becomes available.

▼ Newly marketed drugs and vaccines are intensively monitored for a minimum of two years, in order to confirm the risk / benefit profile of the product. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report all suspected adverse drug reactions regardless of the severity of the reaction.