

Greater Manchester sequential use of high cost drugs statement

At the May 2022 GMMMGS meeting, it was agreed that the [RMOC advisory statement on sequential use of biologic medicines](#) should be adopted by Greater Manchester (GM) Integrated Care to bring high cost drugs pathways in line with the NHS constitution, improve equity of access and allow consistency across all GM providers.

As sequential treatments have been in common use in GM for some time now, the budgetary impact is expected to be cost neutral. Furthermore, analysis of the latest 6 months of individual funding requests (IFR) suggests adopting the sequential use statement as GM policy will reduce the number of IFR drug requests by approximately 50%.

There will be no need for individual funding requests (as previously specified in the high cost drugs pathways) for sequential use of high cost drugs where patients meet relevant NICE technology appraisal criteria or as specified in a GM commissioned high cost drug pathway.

This applies to high cost drugs (including biologics) commissioned by GM Integrated Care.

Wording reflective of that in RMOC statement will be included in each GM commissioned HCD pathway:

“For patients requiring subsequent high cost drugs including biologic agents:

Response to one agent in the management of xxx is not predictive of a patient’s likely response to alternative agents in an alternative class. Some of the available agents for the management of xxx have different mechanisms of action, so using an agent with a different mechanism of action to the failed therapy may result in disease control.

Choice of subsequent agent should be taken following review by a specialist with consideration given to the mechanism of action of previous agent, the severity and current level of disease control, and the presence of co-existing conditions, as well as the patient’s past medical history and with regards to contraindications and precautions to individual agents. This should be a shared decision with the patient.

Patients must meet the criteria laid out in the relevant NICE technology appraisal or relevant GM HCDs pathway for initiation on the subsequent line of therapy”

In complex cases it is recommended to seek advice from other professional colleagues, for example as a part of multi-disciplinary team discussion.