

Policy for the Prescribing of Medicines for Patients Transferring from Paediatric to Adult Services

Introduction

Most drugs commissioned by NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (Leeds CCG) are for use in both paediatric and adult patients. However, there may be instances where a drug is commissioned in paediatrics, but not in adults. This may be due to:

- differing evidence between the two patient populations
- differing national guidance (e.g. NICE) between the two age groups
- relative cost differences between the two patient populations
- different commissioners and / or Tariff arrangements for the two cohorts of patients
- different licensing of the drug in the two patient populations.

Commissioning Decision

For the majority of patients transferring from paediatric to adult care, their medication will continue unchanged with similar, regular review.

However, for a small number of medicines (usually but not exclusively non-Tariff), NHS Leeds CCG will *not automatically* continue funding them. An individual decision will be made for each drug based on the criteria above, and several key questions will be used when reviewing the evidence to aid the commissioning decision. These include:

- Is there similar disease progression in the paediatric and adult populations?
- Is there similar response to the intervention in the paediatric and adult populations?
- Is there a similar exposure-response relationship in the paediatric and adult populations?
- Is there any different exclusion criteria for the drug in the paediatric and adult populations?
- Is there differing NICE (or similar) guidance in the paediatric and adult populations?
- Are other treatment options available for adults?

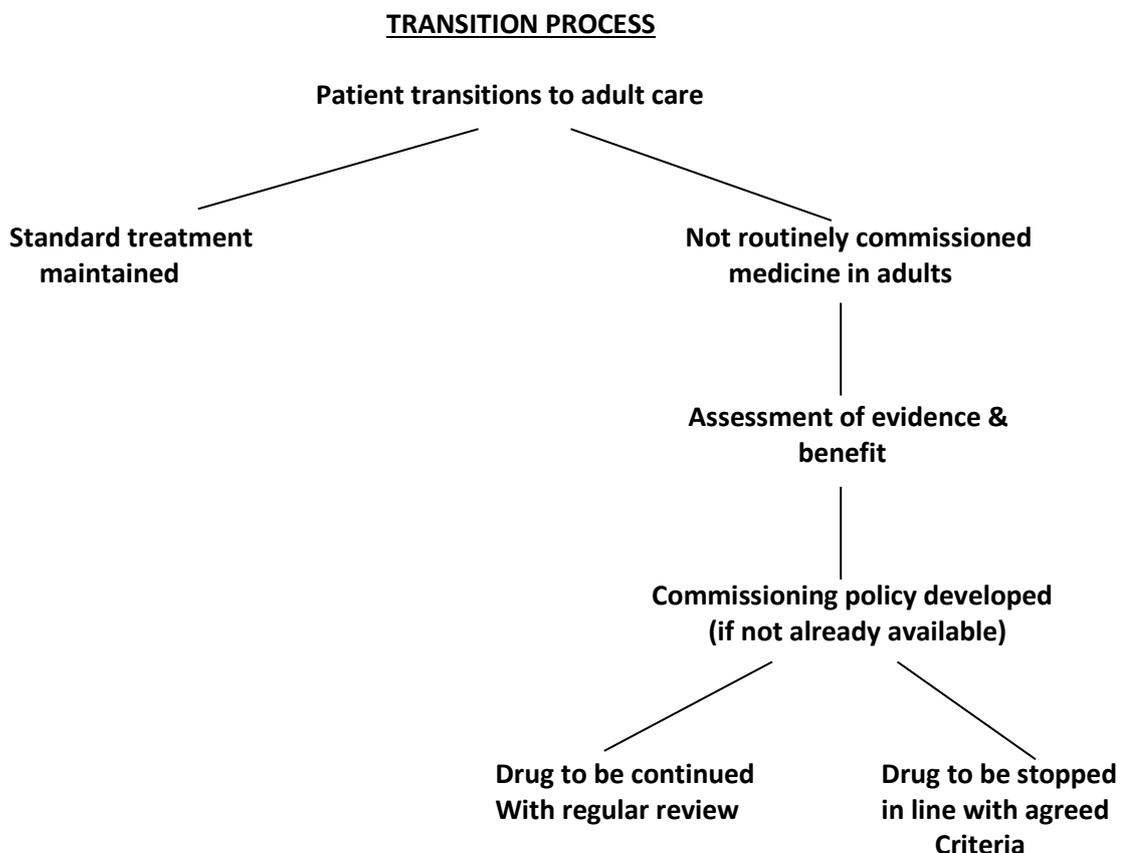
This policy applies to patients as they transition from paediatric to adult care. For patients who have already transitioned to adult care on a drug that is subsequently not commissioned in adults, the CCG will support ongoing treatment until the patient and their NHS clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

Transition Process

The following process will be used to assess whether a medicine commissioned in paediatric patients will be commissioned in adults.

- When a patient transfers from paediatric to adult services the medicine will be continued for a specified period (dependant on the specific medicine, and up to a maximum of 1 year)
- Objective measures for improved outcomes will be agreed with the commissioners for each individual medicine
- The consultant specialist for adult services will assess the patients need for the medicine within the specified period
- The patient will be assessed annually to assess continued benefit from the medicine
- The medicine will be discontinued if the agreed outcome measures are not maintained.

Individual commissioning statements will be produced for each drug in consultation with relevant specialists and will be added as an appendix to this policy.



Produced by Joanna Alldred

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