

Project scope: Selective internal radiation therapies for treating hepatocellular carcinoma

27 May 2022

Research question

SHTG has been asked to conduct a health technology assessment on the use of TheraSphere. SHTG will seek to adapt the NICE technology appraisal guidance on selective internal radiation therapies (including TheraSphere). These therapies are used for treating patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer).

NICE technology appraisal guidance 688 can be viewed at <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta688>

The NICE guidance recommends:

The selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT) SIR-Spheres is recommended as an option for treating unresectable advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in adults, only if:

- used for people with Child–Pugh grade A liver impairment when conventional transarterial therapies are inappropriate, and
- the company provides SIR-Spheres according to the commercial arrangement.

The SIRT TheraSphere is recommended as an option for treating unresectable advanced HCC in adults, only if:

- used for people with Child–Pugh grade A liver impairment when conventional transarterial therapies are inappropriate, and
- the company provides TheraSphere according to the commercial arrangement.

The SIRT QuiremSpheres is not recommended for treating unresectable advanced HCC in adults.

These recommendations are not intended to affect treatment with SIR-Spheres, TheraSphere and QuiremSpheres that was started in the NHS before this guidance was published. People having treatment outside these recommendations may continue without change to the

funding arrangements in place for them before this guidance was published, until they and their NHS clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

Inclusion criteria

The NICE technology appraisal guidance was published in March 2021. The evidence base used to inform their recommendations will be used as the basis for SHTG's adaption leading to recommendations for NHSScotland.

Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of SHTG recommendations on selective internal radiation therapies for treating hepatocellular carcinoma:

1. A targeted update of the NICE literature search to identify systematic reviews, meta-analyses and economic evaluations (UK only) published in English in 2020 or 2021.
2. The EUnetHTA Adaptation Toolkit will be used to assess the reliability, relevance and transferability of the NICE guidance to the Scottish context. This will include an assessment of the NICE evidence review.
3. Discussion with National Procurement about a potential commercial arrangement between manufacturers and NHSScotland for the procurement of selective internal radiation therapies.
4. A draft adaptation document will be prepared, using the adaptation process template. This will include a description of the technology, a draft recommendation for NHSScotland and a section on considerations for NHSScotland.
5. The draft adaptation document will be sent out to a group of clinical experts for comment. Experts will be asked a list of pre-defined survey questions, and also any other topic-specific questions identified from completing the EUnetHTA Adaptation Toolkit.
6. The draft adaptation document will be redrafted based on the expert comments, and (if required) a second draft will be sent to the topic experts for comment.
7. Changes will be made to the draft adaptation document based on the comments received. If required, a third draft will be sent out to the topic experts for comment.
8. After the survey exercise, a final draft will be prepared and presented to the SHTG Council for their comments and approval.

End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- SHTG recommendations based on an adaptation of NICE technology appraisal guidance 688 on selective internal radiation therapies

- A plain language summary of the SHTG recommendations.

Timescales (approximate)

The project will take approximately 3-6 months for completion. Work will start on this project in June 2022.