

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB754

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22 February 2024

By Email

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 07 February 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am hereby requesting information about the drug DARIDOREXANT.
[Overview](#) | [Daridorexant for treating long-term insomnia](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)

Section cover's implementation within 3months of 18th October 2023.

My General Practice (Grove Medical, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne) pharmacist has informed my GP that the drug is not yet in the Formulary. I have seen that it is in the Formulary elsewhere in the Country at other NHS Trusts.

I can see that your Formulary has not been updated since 17 January 2024

The information I require is:

1. Why is DARIDOREXANT not yet in
2. your Formulary?

3. What action is being taken by your Trust to comply with the above linked NICE Implementation?
4. When will it be in your Formulary?

For your information it is a drug that my GP will prescribe to me when it is on the Formulary because I already meet all the criteria in the NICE guidance.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

The NICE TA daridorexant has followed the ICB Exec agreed process for adding to the formulary.

It was published on 18.10.2023 so as per process it went out with all the NICE TAs for consultation in November 2023 for 4 weeks consultation across the NENC on what formulary status it should have and any implementation issues. Consultation ran 14.11.2023 to 12.12.2023.

Then all the comments from this consultation were presented to the next available meeting of Northern Treatment Advisory Group (NTAG) which was in January 2024.

Following this a recommendation on formulary RAG status has been made to the NENC Medicines Subcommittee which met on Mon 12.2.2024. It approved at that stage and has now been forwarded for final approval by ICB executive before it is added to formulary.

RAG status will define where and who may prescribe. Once approved by ICB executive it will be added to formulary. RAG status on formulary ensures it is available to eligible patients as per NICE TA in the most appropriate setting to ensure it is safely prescribed. In this case, given that daridorexant is a brand new class of drug, it has been approved to be added to formulary as requiring initial prescribing only by a specialist in sleep disorders who can monitor individual patients for its effectiveness and any side effects. Once established by the specialist that it is effective and safe to continue in an individual their GP will be asked to continue to prescribe and monitor.

As discussed in the NICE TA GP training was considered important as well as CBTi to be commissioned by NHS England. It was considered important by ICB that these additional supports are also in place once daridorexant is available on formulary to ensure safety of patients prescribed this new drug. ICB is working hard to complete this process as quickly as possible.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Coxon

Pamela Coxon
Information Governance Officer