

Making Outcomes-Based Payments a Reality in the NHS: Cancer Research UK and Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership

Project background

Advances in drug development offer cancer patients the prospect of improved treatment outcomes and better quality of life. Yet, translating these advances into routine access to innovative and evidence-based cancer drugs for NHS patients remains challenging. The continuing pressures on the NHS also add to the need to explore sustainable long-term ways of paying for cancer drugs.

Cancer Research UK and Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership are therefore exploring the feasibility of an outcome-based payments scheme. Depending on the results of the study, we will provide recommendations on whether the NHS in England should adopt an outcomes-based scheme to pay for cancer drugs. The project is looking to produce evidence on how such a scheme might be rolled out at scale - after being piloted in Greater Manchester - including highlighting the barriers that would need to be addressed to deliver this.

Methodology

The study is expected to be conducted in three phases. We are being advised by a steering group, which includes experts from Cancer Research UK, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, the Department of Health and Social Care, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, NHS England, Public Health England, industry, clinicians and people affected by cancer.

The first phase of the research will define the outcomes framework. This will include clinical outcomes as well as broader metrics to capture the value of new drugs to people affected by cancer. It will also consider how the scheme might link these outcomes to reimbursement, including identifying the real-world data needed to measure these outcomes.

We have commissioned the Office of Health Economics (OHE) and RAND Europe to undertake this phase. The methodology for this first phase includes:

- A literature review, focusing on potential outcome metrics and existing schemes (including non-UK and non-cancer schemes) that link outcomes with pricing;
- Interviews with NHS and government stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and industry;
- Focus groups and a survey with people affected by cancer.

The outcomes framework defined in the first phase will then be used in the next two phases of the study. The second phase will retrospectively test the framework using existing datasets, to understand the potential impact of its implementation in the NHS. Subject to an assessment of viability following phases one and two, the final phase will use the framework to carry out a live pilot of an outcome-based pricing scheme within Greater Manchester.

Timelines

The first phase of the project is expected to conclude by the end of 2018. Outputs will include a research report and standalone executive summary, both of which will be made available for download from CRUK's website, as well as the submission of one or more journal articles.

We will look to begin commissioning the second phase of the project in late 2018.

For more information, please contact helen.beck@cancer.org.uk or duncan.sim@cancer.org.uk.