

Understanding NICE guidance

Information for people who use NHS services

Prasugrel for the treatment of acute coronary syndromes with percutaneous coronary intervention

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This leaflet is about when **prasugrel** should be used to treat people with acute coronary syndromes who are having percutaneous coronary intervention in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It is written for people with acute coronary syndromes who are having percutaneous coronary intervention but it may also be useful for their families or carers or anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe acute coronary syndromes, or the treatments in detail – a member of your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on the back page.

This may not be the only possible treatment for acute coronary syndromes. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether it is suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

Prasugrel in combination with aspirin is recommended as an option for preventing blockages in the arteries of people with acute coronary syndromes who are having a treatment called percutaneous coronary intervention only when:

- immediate percutaneous coronary intervention is necessary to treat an ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction (a type of heart attack) **or**
- a blood clot has blocked a stent (a small mesh-like tube inserted into an artery to keep it open) during treatment with a drug called clopidogrel **or**
- the patient has diabetes mellitus.

Healthcare professionals should not stop prescribing prasugrel for people who were already taking it when the guidance was issued. These people should be able to carry on taking prasugrel until they and their healthcare professionals decide that it is the right time to stop treatment.

Acute coronary syndromes

Acute coronary syndromes is the name given to a group of heart problems. It includes unstable angina and two types of heart attack, non-ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction and ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction.

Prasugrel

Prasugrel is a drug that can reduce or prevent the formation of blood clots in arteries. It can be used for people with acute coronary syndromes who are having a procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention (also known as angioplasty, and may include the insertion of a stent). This procedure treats narrowed arteries in the heart.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued. So, if you have an acute coronary syndrome and are having percutaneous coronary intervention, and you need immediate primary percutaneous coronary intervention for an ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction, or you have had a stent thrombosis during clopidogrel treatment, or you have diabetes mellitus, and your doctor thinks that prasugrel is the right treatment for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if the treatment is not available.

If you are already taking prasugrel for an acute coronary syndrome and are having percutaneous coronary intervention, you should be able to continue taking it until you and your healthcare professional decide it is the right time to stop.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with acute coronary syndromes. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- Action Heart, 01384 292233
www.actionheart.com
- British Heart Foundation, Heart HelpLine 0300 330 3311
www.bhf.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. Your local patient advice and liaison service (usually known as 'PALS') may also be able to give you more information and support. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE produces guidance (advice) for the NHS about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This leaflet and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/TA182

You can order printed copies of this leaflet from NICE publications (phone 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote reference N2013). The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on the Browsealoud logo on the NICE website to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this leaflet in their own information about acute coronary syndromes and percutaneous coronary intervention.