

Sarcoma overview

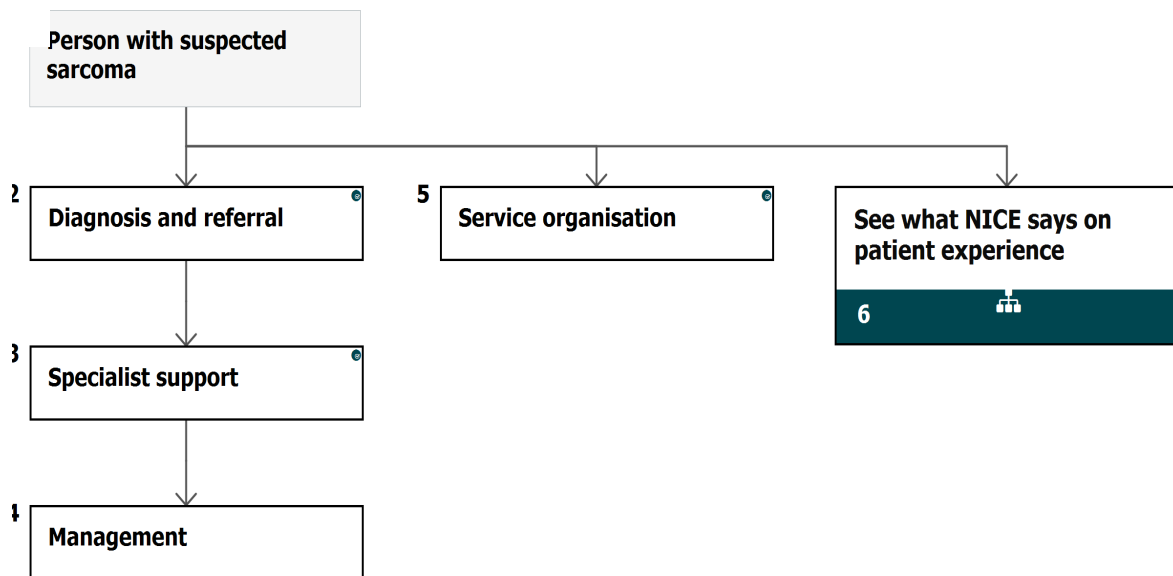
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/sarcoma>

NICE Pathway last updated: 08 August 2017

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Person with suspected sarcoma

No additional information

2 Diagnosis and referral

Quality standards

The following quality statements are relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

1. Diagnostic pathways
2. Multidisciplinary teams for sarcoma
4. Retroperitoneal sarcoma

3 Specialist support

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

6. Key workers

4 Management

Mifamurtide for osteosarcoma

The following recommendation is from NICE technology appraisal guidance on [mifamurtide for the treatment of osteosarcoma](#).

Mifamurtide in combination with postoperative multi-agent chemotherapy is recommended within its licensed indication as an option for the treatment of high-grade resectable non-metastatic osteosarcoma after macroscopically complete surgical resection in children, adolescents and young adults and when mifamurtide is made available at a reduced cost to the NHS under the patient access scheme.

NICE has written information for the public explaining its guidance on [mifamurtide](#).

Soft tissue sarcoma

Olaratumab in combination with doxorubicin

The following recommendations are from NICE technology appraisal guidance on [olaratumab in combination with doxorubicin for treating advanced soft tissue sarcoma](#).

Olaratumab, in combination with doxorubicin, is recommended for use within the Cancer Drugs Fund as an option for advanced soft tissue sarcoma in adults, only if:

- they have not had any previous systemic chemotherapy for advanced soft tissue sarcoma
- they cannot have curative treatment with surgery or their disease does not respond to radiotherapy
- the conditions in the [managed access agreement](#) for olaratumab are followed.

This recommendation is not intended to affect treatment with olaratumab that was started in the NHS before this guidance was published. People having treatment outside this recommendation 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.

See [why we made the recommendations on olaratumab](#) [See page 6].

NICE has written information for the public explaining its guidance on [olaratumab](#).

Trabectedin

The following recommendation is from NICE technology appraisal guidance on [trabectedin for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma](#).

Trabectedin is recommended as a treatment option for people with advanced soft tissue sarcoma if:

- treatment with anthracyclines and ifosfamide has failed or
- they are intolerant of or have contraindications for treatment with anthracyclines and ifosfamide

and

- the acquisition cost of trabectedin for treatment needed after the fifth cycle is met by the manufacturer.

NICE has written information for the public explaining its guidance on [trabectedin](#).

Gastrointestinal stromal tumours

For information on managing gastrointestinal stromal tumours see [gastrointestinal stromal tumours](#) in gastrointestinal cancers.

5 Service organisation

NICE has published a cancer service guideline on [improving outcomes for people with sarcoma](#).

See also what NICE says on [transition from children's to adults' services](#).

Quality standards

The following quality statements are relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

3. Publishing information about areas of expertise
5. Surgical skills

6 See what NICE says on patient experience

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

Why we made the recommendations on olaratumab

People with advanced soft tissue sarcoma having doxorubicin alone are expected to live for 12 to 16 months after starting treatment. Evidence suggests that having olaratumab plus doxorubicin increases the length of time people live by 11.8 months. This amount of survival gain in advanced sarcoma is unprecedented and potentially represents a step-change in its treatment. However, there are not enough long-term data to know the overall length of time people having olaratumab plus doxorubicin live compared with doxorubicin alone because a confirmatory phase III trial (ANNOUNCE) is still ongoing.

Olaratumab plus doxorubicin met NICE's criteria to be considered a life-extending treatment at the end of life. The criteria are that life expectancy for people with the condition should be less than 24 months and that the treatment should extend life by more than 3 months.

The estimate of the cost effectiveness of olaratumab plus doxorubicin varied primarily because of the uncertainties in the data. The incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) ranged between £46,000 and £60,000 per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained. The most plausible ICER is likely to be close to £60,000 per QALY gained. This is not cost effective based on what NICE normally considers acceptable for end-of-life treatments.

More long-term data would reduce uncertainty in the clinical effectiveness of olaratumab plus doxorubicin and allow a more certain cost effectiveness estimate. The ongoing ANNOUNCE trial is expected to address the uncertainty in the data. Olaratumab is therefore recommended for use within the Cancer Drugs Fund while further data are collected.

For more information see the committee discussion in the NICE technology appraisal on [olaratumab in combination with doxorubicin for treating advanced soft tissue sarcoma](#).

Sources

[Olaratumab in combination with doxorubicin for treating advanced soft tissue sarcoma](#) (2017) NICE technology appraisal guidance 465

[Mifamurtide for the treatment of osteosarcoma](#) (2011) NICE technology appraisal guidance 235

[Trabectedin for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma](#) (2010) NICE technology appraisal guidance 185

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to

have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.