Pathway Transformation Fund 2020/21

Guidance for Asthma Biologics (Benralizumab, Mepolizumab, Omalizumab and Reslizumab) RUP

Overview

The Pathway Transformation Fund (PTF) is available to help providers to ensure eligible patients are offered asthma biologics. It will do this by providing funding to help reduce associated barriers.

This supplementary guidance provides additional information to help you make a successful PTF application. It sets out priority areas to address barriers to implementation (identified by the Asthma Biologics Product Working Group), suggested models of delivery and provides tips for successful applications.

Please consult with your AHSN RUP lead for further advice and guidance.

RUP priority actions

- Improving access for eligible patients e.g. by growing the number of secondary care trusts who can initiate biologics under the direction of specialist prescribing centres.
- Providing education/training or support to clinicians in primary and secondary care to raise awareness of asthma biologics, investigate adherence and refer appropriate people.
- Supporting early identification and (appropriate) referrals in Primary and Secondary care
- Building capacity and reducing waiting times from initial referral to assessment and initiation (in eligible patients) at all points in the patient pathway.
- Establishing systems that help establish adherence data that will aid in specialist prescribing assessments of eligibility for biologics.
- Growing the proportion on home/self-administration and home monitoring (including digital solutions) for people on biologics
- Trialling new approaches/enhanced roles for clinicians (including nurses and pharmacists (i.e. adherence lead))
- Developing or enhancing a severe asthma service e.g. through recruitment of a specialist MDT that will reduce waiting lists.
- Patient engagement and education on severe asthma treatment options, providing support with adherence and to minimise harm associated with excess oral corticosteroid use.

Models of delivery and Evaluation of Impact

We welcome innovative models for the delivery of proposed projects to address barriers, including new ways of partnership working and use of data and/or technology to maximise efficiency in asthma biologic assessment, referral and prescribing. The following are some suggestions for models of delivery that have been identified by the Product Working Group:

- Working with a range of partners (open to primary, secondary and tertiary care) within a CCG and/or ICS area (we are open to joint applications for both FeNO and Asthma Biologics particularly to support training initiatives in primary care) This can include models where primary care and/or secondary care referrals are supported by tertiary centres or where secondary care centres engage in Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings with severe asthma centre to facilitate initiation of biologics.

The application must include details of how you will measure and evaluate your project. Where relevant to the project submitted, we would be particularly keen to receive data on the metrics outlined below:

- Demonstrating improved access to biologics
- Reducing waiting times
- Improving self-administration/homecare and reducing oral steroid use.
- Evidence of financial and system impact being on a biologic for those requiring it (to include this as part of evaluation process i.e. number of exacerbations/admissions reduced).
- Reduction in waiting times for biologics – ideally from referral to first dose to include the following time points:
    - Time from referral in primary care to review
    - Time from referral into severe asthma centre to be seen in severe asthma centre
    - Time from first review to Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) review (for biologic)
    - Time from MDT approval for a biologic to initiation of biologic

Tips for a successful application

- Ensure that you have liaised with your local AHSN Project Manager for your RUP (contact details below).
- The AHSNs are the key interface with the suppliers and we would advise that you work through them in the first instance. The RUP suppliers are AstraZeneca, GSK, Novartis and Teva.
- Understand the priorities for implementation of the RUP that have been identified by the Product Working Group.

Please refer to the main PTF application guidance for more information.

Applications should be submitted via your AHSN Project Manager to: the AAC RUP Delivery Team c/o England.ptf@nhs.net

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