

Launch of the Blueteq High Cost Drug System in Wales for WHSSC commissioned medicines

We are delighted to announce that the Blueteq High Cost Drug (HCD) System for Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) medicines goes live on 10th May 2021

What is Blueteq High Cost Drugs (HCD) system?

The Blueteq HCD system is used to authorise and procure all National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) approved high cost drugs across a whole range of healthcare conditions.

Adopting the system will ensure we get the right treatment to the right patients and allow NHS Wales to manage the ever-increasing complexities associated with prescribing these high cost treatments.

All Wales approach

The Blueteq HCD system was procured for NHS Wales by WHSSC and Welsh Government in 2019 to initially support the implementation of all HCDs commissioned by WHSSC but with a view to wider implementation in the future.

Implementation of the Blueteq HCD system is managed and administered by a Working Group led by Wendy Casey – Medicine Access and Efficiency Project Manager All Wales Therapeutic Toxicology Centre (AWTTC). Implementation of the Blueteq HCD system will be in two phases. Phase I will be for WHSSC commissioned medicines only (including all ATMPs). Phase II will include all HCDs commissioned by the seven Health Boards (HBs) in Wales and will begin later in 2021.

Assurance

The Blueteq HCD system will provide WHSSC and HBs with assurance that approved high cost medicines are prescribed in line with local policy and NICE guidance, and will ensure consistency across Wales and NHS England.

The system provides a single process for recording and approving treatments that WHSSC and HBs wish to monitor. Approval of a HCD request is accomplished by the completion of a simple 'form' which lists the eligibility criteria for that medicine. A library of unique forms for all HCDs is being developed with support from clinical teams across Wales. Most forms will be available for use from 10th May, and this list will be expanded over time.

They are easy to use; clear and intuitive and additional data items can be added where appropriate.

Cross Border

Close cooperation with both WHSSC and NHS England has enabled Blueteq to include sufficient functionality to ensure cross border treatments can be catered for seamlessly and attributed to the correct organisations.

- WHSSC will be able to report on treatments undertaken regardless of where the patient is treated.
- HBs will be able to view and report on both the treatment of their own patients and by who and where they are treated.

Review, continuation and outcome data

Where appropriate a review period can be included and stored for particular treatments and will then be calculated and recorded against each notification.

- Users will be able to produce reports or have views of treatments approaching the review date and highlight those that are beyond the review date.
- Monitor long term illnesses; forms can be created and updated at appropriate review stages.
- Data will be continually recorded, e.g. treatment/disease scores showing disease progression over time, e.g. Quality of Life Scores (SF-36), DAS scores, EDSS, etc.
- Improve the care of patients and ensure the best use of resources.

Training

A program of training is under way for staff at WHSSC and clinicians/teams in centres providing WHSSC commissioned HCDs. This will continue and is available to all staff involved with using the Blueteq HCD system. If you have not as yet received training please contact wendy.casey@wales.nhs.uk.

Acknowledgments

The success of the project is attributed to all those involved: the implementation working group, clinicians involved in reviewing the Blueteq medicine criteria forms and Rick Tagg Business Development Director, Blueteq.