

North Region Specialised Commissioning Team  
(North East & Cumbria Hub)  
NHS England  
Waterfront 4  
Goldcrest Way  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE15 8NY

**To:**

Provider Medical Directors  
Provider Chief Pharmacists

**Via email**

0113 825 2439  
[Liz.rogerson@nhs.net](mailto:Liz.rogerson@nhs.net)

23, November, 2017

Dear Colleague

**Re: SPIRIT 2 Trial in chronic myeloid leukaemia. Transition of patients on dasatinib trial supply to NHS commercial supply**

The SPIRIT 2 trial is a UK-wide NCRI trial in patients with newly diagnosed chronic myeloid leukaemia, which has been running since 2008. On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018, this trial will have completed the required 5 year follow up and NHS England have agreed that all patients currently receiving free-of-charge trial supplies of dasatinib provided by Bristol Myers Squibb (5 years FOC for all patients on dasatinib), will transition to NHS provision of commercially-supplied dasatinib. Currently there are 192 patients in England who will be in this position in March 2018 (see appendix for detail).

NICE in their Technology Appraisal (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta426>) published 21st December 2016 stated that:

*Imatinib is recommended as an option for untreated, chronic-phase Philadelphia-chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukaemia in adults.*

*Dasatinib and nilotinib are recommended, within their marketing authorisations, as options for untreated chronic-phase Philadelphia-chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukaemia in adults. The drugs are recommended only if the companies provide them with the discounts agreed in the relevant patient access schemes.*

NHS England has commissioned imatinib, dasatinib and nilotinib according to these criteria since 21st March 2017. It should be noted that NICE only considered the list price of the branded imatinib product in this appraisal. Following the introduction of generic imatinib products the price of imatinib has decreased significantly and is likely to decrease further. The cost effectiveness of generic imatinib will therefore be much greater than dasatinib or nilotinib. Therefore it is expected that imatinib will be considered, and be reimbursed as, the first choice treatment in patients with

*High quality care for all, now and for future generations*

untreated chronic phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive CML. However NHS England have agreed that the 192 patients on dasatinib at the end of the SPIRIT 2 trial should continue on the same treatment as this indication is now NICE approved and considerable savings have already been accrued from the use of FOC dasatinib in the trial.

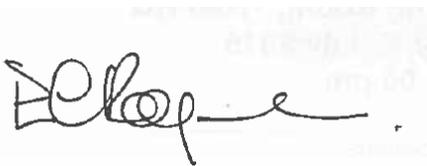
At the beginning of the transition to NHS supply of dasatinib a Blueteq registration form will be required for each patient. Trusts must:

- Ensure that they are purchasing dasatinib at the agreed PAS price.
- Ensure that a Blueteq form is completed for all new patients receiving dasatinib in this transition in order to confirm the patient meets the criteria.
- Ensure they are registering dasatinib use on SACT.
- Inform specialised commissioning hubs of the estimated patient numbers who will transfer from SPIRIT 2 into routine commissioning on dasatinib.
- Any enquiries from NHS organisations about the dasatinib patient access scheme should be directed to Bristol-Myers Squibb at [MG-UKPASADMIN@bms.com](mailto:MG-UKPASADMIN@bms.com).

This transition arrangement only applies to dasatinib in SPIRIT 2. Patients treated with imatinib in the trial have always received NHS-supplied medication and most of those patients are now on generic imatinib.

I would be grateful if you could cascade this information to relevant clinical teams within your organisation to support the consistent adoption of the policy nationally.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Rogerson', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Liz Rogerson  
**Assistant Director Specialised Commissioning – North East & Cumbria  
NHS England North**

Cc Provider Chief Executives  
Provider Contract Leads

### **Appendix: location of patients**

<b>NHS Region</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
NHS England Midlands & East Region	51
<b>NHS England North Region</b>	<b>46</b>
NHS England South Region	59
NHS London Region	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>