

UK Infected Blood payment Schemes Teleconference – 5 June 2018

Attendees:

England: Donna McInnes and Ginny Belson
Scotland: Sam Baker and Rob Girvan
Northern Ireland: Karen Simpson

Apologies:

Wales: Catherine Cody and Andrew Holmes

Country Updates

Scotland:

- Final Clinical Review on impact of hepatitis C – circulate in confidence to all
- It was yet to be agreed how or when this document would be published
- Strong evidence of linkage between hepatitis C and mental health issues
- Less strong evidence of physical health impact
- Clinicians had reported that they did not like the Special Category Mechanism
- Proposed three categories: severe/long term impact / moderate impact / no impact – difficult to define and clinicians have suggested they do not want to be involved
- The report suggested that the impact of being bereaved was significant
- The impact overall was shown to be less than had been anticipated by campaigners
- Review based on: literature review/ interviews with beneficiaries and bereaved
- It was planned for the report to go out to beneficiaries and then go public 2-3 weeks later

Wales:

Cabinet Secretary for Health has agreed to the Department's recommendations in relation to changes to the Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme (WIBSS) for 2018/19.

These are broadly as follows:

- Stage 1 hepatitis C payments are uplifted in line with the Consumer Price Index including housing costs (CPIH) from 1 April 2018;
- Stage 2 HCV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) payments, including co-morbid cases, are increased to match the rate currently paid in England;
- Payments will be uplifted by CPIH based on the rate for January preceding the start of each new financial year.

Undertaking a piece of work to consider options for an approach that would be suitable for WIBSS to recognise the specific issues faced by those at Stage 1 – hepatitis C, whose condition has either worsened or has had a long term negative impact on their lives. Recommendations arising from this work could, of course, include the ‘do nothing’ option.

Northern Ireland:

Managing expectations around the introduction of an SCM-like scheme – no decision as yet – difficult to progress in the absence of an Assembly
Carried out a survey of beneficiaries in NI in relation to this
Little lobbying at present

England:

Discretionary support review – nearly completed – will share once published

HIV Funding

This would be looked at again by Emily Coelho, the new HEO, once she started later this month.

Infected Blood Inquiry

TOR publication date not known at present
All the countries’ schemes would probably be asked to send out further communications to beneficiaries on behalf of inquiry

Alliance House Update

Still some lack of clarity re: movement of files to Skipton – dates etc

Future Meetings

Dates have been set as follows:

- 10 July 2018
- 18 September 2018
- 16 October 2018