

Scottish Medicines Consortium submission of 9 December 2022

PE1950/C: Ensure immunosuppressed people in Scotland can access the Evusheld antibody treatment

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2022, in relation to PE1950 and “the request for a review of the SMC decision to wait for the NICE report, and provide access, via the NHS, to Evusheld® prophylactic treatment for people who have zero or limited response to the COVID-19 vaccines”.

The remit of the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) is to provide advice to NHS Boards and their Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees across Scotland about the status of newly licensed medicines and new indications for established products.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, SMC and NICE have collaborated with other UK partners to ensure rapid access to effective treatments for COVID-19 through the [Research to access pathway for investigational drugs for COVID-19 \(RAPID C-19\)](#) initiative. This collaboration has ensured early patient access to effective COVID-19 therapies in a clinical area with rapidly changing evidence.

SMC and NICE have agreed to extend their partnership working, through alignment of guidance on the NICE technology appraisal of tixagevimab–cilgavimab (Evusheld®) for preventing COVID-19 ([Joint statement: NICE and SMC/HIS collaboration \(scottishmedicines.org.uk\)](#)). SMC will be part of the appraisal and decision making process and will input directly to the technology appraisal through co-opting of an SMC member to the NICE committee. In addition, an SMC nominated clinical expert practising in NHS Scotland will be present as an additional clinical expert for the committee meeting. The committee is [meeting](#) on 24th January 2023, with final guidance expected to be published on 4th April 2023. NICE and SMC will produce separate guidance and advice documents, based on the shared assessment process. In Scotland, the advice will have the same status for health board consideration as other SMC advice on new medicines.

I hope this helps clarify the position.