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**St Helens CCG**  
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**St Helens WA10 1FY**

Email: [sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net](mailto:sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net)

**Our Ref: FOI 7662**

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Further to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Originator Biological Medicines, please see below our response to your request.

### Request/ Response:

1. Has an approach to Biosimilar uptake been discussed and agreed with:
  - The CCG governing body - **No**
  - Area Prescribing Committee - **Yes**
  - Relevant local provider organisation - **Yes**
  - Relevant Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships - **No**
2. Do you have a mechanism in place for identifying the date of patent expiry for originator biological medicines, and the possible launch date of individual biosimilar products ? **Yes**
3. Have you identified the level of potential savings opportunity available to your health economy through the use of biosimilar medicines ? **Yes**
4. Has your CCG accepted or is it currently accepting manufacturer provision of free of charge drug stock between licensing and NICE funding ? **No**
5. If your CCG accepted or is it currently accepting FOC stock, please state "Yes" to any of following:
  - Brodalumab (Kyntheum)
  - Guselkumab (Tremfya)
  - Ixekizumab (Taltz)
  - Secukinumab (Cosentyx) in Psoriasis or Ankylosing Spondylitis or Psoriatic Arthritis**No to all the above**
6. Has your Trust / CCG accepted or is it currently accepting the following list of drugs in
  - Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)
  - Baricitinib (Olumiant)
  - Golimumab (Simponi) in Rheumatoid Arthritis or Ulcerative Colitis
  - Certolizumab (Cimzia)
  - Apremilast (Otezla)
  - Tocilizumab (Ro Actemra)**Please clarify the question**
7. If your Trust / CCG has not accepted manufacturer provision of free of charge drug stock, are there reasons for this? **The CCG is part of the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee; <http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/home/policies/T4.pdf>**

**Working in partnership with**

**and**

8. For how long is free of charge drug stock typically provided for each patient? [N/A](#)
- First dose
  - First month
  - First 3 months
  - Other
9. Are there any agreements in place between you the CCG and a Provider (eg Hospital Trust) that would enable savings in drug costs to be made? (For example, Gainshare agreements where the benefits associated with more efficient use of medicines not reimbursed through national prices is shared between the Provider and the Clinical Commissioning Group party to the agreement. This includes agreements for the switch to biosimilar products). [Yes](#).

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review process is available, which will be managed by a FOI Appeals Officer.

This can be formally requested and must be done within a reasonable period of time (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the response to a request for information that falls within the Environmental Information Regulations, you should make a representation for a review to FOI Appeals Officer, [sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net](mailto:sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net) within 40 days of receipt of the response.

If you are not satisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely,



**Angela Delea**  
**Associate Director – Corporate Governance**  
**NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group**