

News on TKIs accessible via the Cancer Drugs Fund

Many of you will probably know that a single national list of drugs accepted into the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) for England has replaced the regionally based lists that were operative before the 1st April.

After a review of all drugs on the regional lists, dasatinib was one of the drugs transferred into the new national list and has now been joined by both bosutinib and ponatinib accepted into the list since April 1st.

However the availability of these drugs for CML depends on a definition of a patient profile, called indications, that applicants must meet.

Ponatinib has a profile that an adult patient in any CML Phase must carry the T315i mutation in order to qualify for treatment with the drug via national CDF list.

Bosutinib treatment also depends on a patient meeting the profile we noted in our post in May when bosutinib became accessible via the CDF national list.

Here is the important part from the post:

There are a total of six treatments described for each of the three phases of CML, each with specific criteria that a patient would need to meet in order to access bosutinib (Bosulif).

The really good news is; that both intolerance and resistance are covered in all 3 phases of Ph+ CML.

For all 3 phases of CML, imatinib, nilotinib and dasatinib resistance is covered, as is 'significant intolerance' (grades 3 or 4) to imatinib and/or dasatinib.

This will primarily affect patients in chronic stage, but the fact that there is provision included for both accelerated and blast phase patients provides a very comprehensive access package.

It is worth noting that patients who are currently receiving dasatinib via the CDF will be allowed to transfer over to bosutinib within the Fund.

Management of the CDF is carried out by 4 of the 27 NHS England Area Teams operating on a supra regional basis.

Data has just been published on the first quarter's operation of the CDF for each of the supra regions and I have set this out in this table below.

CML drug	North of England Region	Midlands & East Region	London Region	South of England Region	Total
Dasatinib	9	4	8	4	25
Bosutinib	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ponatinib	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

In this quarter there were 31 drugs in the Fund but many more indications.

The next quarter will include figures for bosutinib and perhaps for ponatinib.