



Effective Health Care Utility of Continuing Biologic Immunomodulators in a Hospital Setting Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process

The topic, *Utility of Continuing Biologic Immunomodulators in a Hospital Setting* is an important issue. However, the nomination did not include enough information about the population and intervention, and we were therefore unable to develop this nomination. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Nomination

Topic Number: 0417

Received On: 02/01/2012

Topic Name: Utility of Continuing Biologic Immunomodulators

Nominator: Pharmacist

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative utility of continuing the biologic immunomodulators that are normally used as outpatient treatment to control chronic medical conditions when a patient is admitted into the hospital. In addition, the nominator is concerned with the detrimental effects the patients might experience from missing a dose of biologic immunomodulation, as well as the high cost of the drugs. The relevant population in which the nominator is interested focuses on low income groups. This topic is important because of the high costs and harms of such treatments. The nominator hopes that an AHRQ systematic review will identify knowledge gaps and will help develop a policy on appropriateness of purchase and administration of these drugs.

Key Questions from Nomination:

Key Question 1: When a patient is admitted to the hospital, what is the comparative utility of continuing biologic immunomodulators that are normally used as outpatient treatment to control chronic medical conditions?

Policy and/or Clinical Context from the Nomination: This topic is important because many of the biologic immunomodulator drugs are very expensive. They are mostly given as outpatient treatment on periodic (i.e., less frequently than daily) schedules. Therefore, there is concern they may not be necessary throughout a typical short hospitalization, where the drug cost would not be reimbursed. Additionally, while patients are hospitalized, their immune function is typically compromised, which may be worsened by administration of these medications.

Original Nomination

Topic Suggestion Description

Date submitted: 02/01/2012

Briefly describe a specific question, or set of related questions, about a health care test or treatment that this program should consider.

When a patient is admitted to the hospital, what is the comparative utility of continuing biologic immunomodulators that are normally used as outpatient treatment to control chronic medical conditions?

Importance

Describe why this topic is important.

This topic is important because many of these drugs are very expensive. They are mostly given as outpatient treatment on periodic (i.e., less frequently than daily) schedules. Therefore, there is concern they may not be necessary throughout a typical short hospitalization, where the drug cost would not be reimbursed. Additionally, while patients are hospitalized, their immune function is typically compromised, which may be worsened by administration of these medications.

Potential Impact

How will an answer to your research question be used or help inform decisions for you or your group?

It will help develop a policy on appropriateness of purchase and administration of these drugs.

Technical Experts and Stakeholders

Are there health care-focused, disease-focused, or patient-focused organizations or technical experts that you see as being relevant to this issue? Who do you think we should contact as we consider your nomination? This information will not influence the progress of your suggestion through the selection process, but it may be helpful to those considering your suggestion for further development.

None provided.

Nominator Information

Other Information About You: (optional)

Please choose a description that best describes your role or perspective: (you may select more than one category if appropriate)

Pharmacist

Please tell us how you heard about the Effective Health Care Program

Personal research

May we contact you if we have questions about your nomination?

Yes