

NICE recommends canagliflozin for T2DM . . .

In draft guidance, NICE has recommended canagliflozin [Invokana] for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).¹ Treatment is to be used as part of dual or triple therapy with other anti-diabetic drugs, including insulin. The draft guidance is out for consultation until 17 March 2014.

. . . but wants more info on dimethyl fumarate for MS

Also in draft guidance, NICE has asked Biogen Idec for more information on its multiple sclerosis (MS) drug, dimethyl fumarate [Tecfidera], saying that there "were still questions to be answered about the clinical and cost effectiveness of the drug . . . we want to ensure that we have as much information as possible to make an informed final recommendation".² Biogen Idec have until 12 March 2014 to submit the extra data, with final guidance on the drug expected in the middle of the year.

. . . and limits first-line ipilimumab use to clinical trials

Finally, in preliminary draft guidance, NICE has decided to recommend first-line ipilimumab [Yervoy] as a first-line treatment for patients with advanced malignant melanoma, but only for those who are participating in clinical trials.³ NICE's Chief Executive, Sir Andrew Dillon, said that it was "disappointing" that the clinical evidence of the drug's effectiveness was inconclusive. However, he noted that data from ongoing clinical trials will provide more data which "could provide an answer" as to whether ipilimumab can increase survival time compared with current standard care.

1. NICE. NICE consults on draft guidance recommending new drug for type 2 diabetes. Media Release : 21 Feb 2014. Available from: URL: <http://www.nice.org.uk>.

2. NICE. Draft guidance from NICE asks for more information on multiple sclerosis treatment - 20 February 2014. Media Release : 20 Feb 2014. Available from: URL: <http://www.nice.org.uk>.

3. NICE. NICE encourages further research into the effectiveness of skin cancer drug. Media Release : 25 Feb 2014. Available from: URL: <http://www.nice.org.uk>.