

British Association of Dermatologists
Therapy & Guidelines sub-committee
Response to NICE FAD on omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final appraisal determination (FAD) for the single technology appraisal (STA) on omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU).

The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) is pleased that omalizumab has been approved for use in patients with severe CSU. However, we completely disagreed with the condition which states that omalizumab can only be “administered by specialised immunology and allergy services according to NHS England’s commissioning policy”. Dermatologists provide care for a large percentage of patients with CSU across the UK; the treatment should be available for use by all those who currently treat patients with CSU. No evidence was provided to support the restriction of the use of this drug to allergists and immunologists.

We have now been advised by NICE that the omission of dermatologists from those specialists able to prescribe this drug was a factual inaccuracy, and that dermatologists will be able to prescribe it, with the proposed new wording of “omalizumab is administered under the management of a secondary care specialist in dermatology, immunology or allergy”.

We would find this amendment acceptable and look forward to receiving the amended final guidance.

Dr Pamela McHenry
Chair, Therapy & Guidelines subcommittee