

Product Update:

pegylated interferon alfa-2b 50, 80, 100, 120 or 150 micrograms powder for solution for injection in pre-filled pen (ViraferonPeg®) SMC No. (794/12)

MSD Ltd

08 June 2012

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees (ADTCs) on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

pegylated interferon alfa-2b (ViraferonPeg®) is accepted for use within NHS Scotland.

Indication under review: in a combination regimen with ribavirin for the treatment of children 3 years of age and older and adolescents, who have chronic hepatitis C, not previously treated, without liver decompensation, and who are positive for HCV-RNA.

This treatment involves a once weekly injection that reduces inconvenience to patients whilst increasing the response rate to pegylated interferon alfa-2b in combination with ribavirin.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 06 April 2012.

**Chairman
Scottish Medicines Consortium**