Fylde and Wyre
Clinical Commissioning Group

Rituximab Intravenous Infusion

for the treatment of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) in adults

Commissioning Statement

Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed to fund the prescribing of Rituximab in adults with ITP following failure of corticosteroid treatment or when corticosteroids and thrombopoietin receptor agonists are contraindicated, as an alternative 2nd line treatment.

Treatment requires initiation and continuation by specialist haematology services

This medicine is classified as RED for this indication

Summary of supporting evidence:

- An RCT demonstrated that rituximab plus dexamethasone is more effective in achieving partial or complete response than dexamethasone alone.
- Rituximab is usually given as a single course of treatment and is intended to induce long term remission of ITP.
- Rituximab has been available as a licensed medicine in the UK since 1998 and has an extensive pool of safety data.
- Rituximab may be preferred to alternative treatment options such as invasive splenectomy or the use of cytotoxic medicines.
- The use of rituximab as an alternative treatment for ITP is recognised by the guidance of the British Society for Haematology the American Society of Hematology and the international consensus report on the investigation and management of primary immune thrombocytopenia.
- The continued introduction of biosimilar preparations of rituximab may enable more costeffective treatment regimens.
- Patients would be required to attend hospital weekly for four weeks to be administered an intravenous infusion of rituximab over several hours

For details around the colour classification system please refer to the website of the Lancashire Medicines Management Group at: http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/