

Generic justification

HIQA generically justifies Lutetium (^{177}Lu) oxodotreotide for the treatment of metastatic or inoperable gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (NETs)

NETs are rare cancers which can develop almost anywhere in the body.



They mainly occur in the lungs, appendix, small intestine, rectum and pancreas.



The radionuclide ^{177}Lu is a treatment option for some patients with NETs in the gut that cannot be removed or have spread.

Why did we perform this review?

New practices involving patients' exposure to ionising radiation must be justified by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

A radionuclide is a cancer medicine that emits a small amount of radioactivity, which causes damage to tumour cells. This type of treatment is only for NETs with a particular kind of receptor on the surface of their cells, called somatostatin receptors.

Until recently, patients had to travel abroad to access this treatment. However, the HSE and the National Cancer Control Programme wish to provide this treatment in the Republic of Ireland.

Available evidence indicates that ^{177}Lu is a safe and effective treatment for this patient group.

It has been shown to slow the progression of NETs and offers a better quality of life than other treatment plans.

