’Pay If You Clear’ Program Proposed for Olysio in Scotland

October 24, 2014

Scotland has proposed a “Pay If You Clear” program that would reimburse its National Health Service (NHS) for the cost of a new hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment if patients failed to clear the virus while taking it, BBC News reports.

The plan was revealed after the Scottish Medicines Consortium approved Janssen’s new hep C drug, Olysio (simeprevir), in Scotland. Experts estimate that there are more than 37,000 HCV-positive Scots, of whom only 55 percent have been diagnosed.

Under the proposal, Janssen would pay for pre-treatment blood tests among HCV patients to determine if Olysio would be likely to succeed for them. Then, any patient who was put on the drug and did not respond to treatment after four weeks would be offered alternative therapies. The NHS would then be refunded for the failed cure.

Janssen claims the move would help both the region and the company cut excess prescribing costs for HCV treatments. It is estimated that Scotland wastes up to £44 million ($71 million U.S.) every year on unused, ineffective or incorrectly taken medications.

The “Pay If You Clear” program is awaiting formal NHS approval.

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