

## **England Infected Blood Support Scheme Special Category Mechanism (SCM) for Hepatitis C Stage 1**

### **Introduction**

The NHS Business Services Authority administers the England Infected Blood Support Scheme.

One of the key elements of reforming the Infected Blood payment support schemes is the introduction of a SCM.

If you're infected with Hepatitis C Stage 1 and registered with us, you could get higher annual payments through SCM.

SCM recognises the impact of your infection, treatment for it or a linked condition and aims to be responsive to your needs and health status.

You could get the same annual payment as Stage 2 recipients if you believe your infection, or its treatment:

- has a long-term negative impact on your ability to carry out daily activities
- has worsened, but is not Stage 2
- led to medical complications not associated with Stage 1
- meant you needed extra treatment not associated with Stage 1

In these circumstances, you would have either:

- autoimmune disease which was due to, or worsened by, interferon treatment. This includes:
  - Coombes positive haemolytic anaemia
  - idiopathic fibrosing alveolitis of the lung
  - rheumatoid arthritis
- sporadic porphyria cutanea tarda (causing photo-sensitivity with blistering)
- immune thrombocytopenic purpura, if autoimmune with antiplatelet antibodies
- type 2 or 3 mixed cryoglobulinaemia, if accompanied by:
  - cerebral vasculitis
  - dermal vasculitis
  - peripheral neuropathy with neuropathic pain

### **Payment**

Those registered as Stage 1 beneficiaries who are successful under the SCM will receive an annual payment of £15,150, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

### **Eligibility**

The SCM is available if you:

- are registered with us as a Stage 1 beneficiary
- consider your infection, its treatment or associated conditions has a long-term negative impact on their ability to carry out daily activities
- has worsened, but is not Stage 2. This includes:
  - advanced cirrhosis
  - primary liver cancer
  - received a liver transplant (or on the waiting list for one);
  - B-cell non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
  - Type 2 or 3 Cryoglobulinaemia (only accompanied by membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (MP GN))

## How to apply

You can find the application form online via our website or receive one by post.

## Medical practitioner's input

It's important that you talk with your hospital hepatologist doctor or viral hepatitis nurse.

If you are not under the care of either, you may wish to discuss their application with your GP.

They may be able to refer you or provide the information we need.

## Evidence

We need the medical practitioner to provide evidence for the answers you give on the form.

We cannot approve your application if it is returned with:

- no evidence
- insufficient evidence

## Endorsement without evidence

It may be that they cannot, or do not, provide evidence for any elements of your answers.

They may provide an endorsement based on professional judgement or balance of probability.

If this is the case, your application goes to a clinical assessor to review. They provide advice on how best to proceed.

We will write to you to explain this, providing:

- an indication of how long this will take
- assurances that, if approved, we will backdate to when we got the application

## Approval

If the evidence clearly supports your answers, we approve your application.

If your medical practitioner provides an endorsement, a clinical review takes place.

A clinical assessor will decide whether to approve your application.

## **Rejection of applications**

We write to you with an explanation of why your application has been unsuccessful.

We may return your application to you seeking further evidence.

We could also give your application to a clinical assessor, if there is not enough evidence.

We offer the chance to appeal the decision if you disagree with the reasoning provided by us.

## **Appeals**

Details of the appeals process appear in any rejection letter.

If you appeal, an impartial expert panel meet and review the application.

They may overturn the decision and approve the application.

We will backdate payments from when we received your application.

The panel may seek further evidence from the applicant and their medical practitioner.

We will write to you and your medical practitioner with the request.

If there is a delay in the panel reaching their decision, we will write to you informed in a reasonable time.

## **Not registered with the scheme**

If you apply but are not registered for Stage 1, we will contact you. You will need to register as a Stage 1 beneficiary.

You will then go through the standard Stage 1 registration procedures.

## **Contact details**

If you have any queries or would like an application form sent to you, you can contact us:

Email: [nhsbsa.eibss@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.eibss@nhs.net)

Telephone: 0300 330 1294

You can write to us at:  
EIBSS

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