

**South East London Area Prescribing Committee
Formulary recommendation**

Reference	050
Intervention:	Brivaracetam film coated tablets (all strengths) and 10mg/ml oral solution for the adjunctive treatment of partial onset seizures in people with epilepsy (Brivaracetam is a medicine for treating epilepsy – it is an analogue of levetiracetam)
Date of Decision	June 2016
Date of Issue:	July 2016
Recommendation:	Amber – Specialist (consultant neurologist) initiation and supply. GPs may be asked to take on prescribing after at least 6 months.
Further Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brivaracetam is accepted for use within South East London as an adjunctive third line treatment option for the management of partial-onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults. Brivaracetam may be considered if there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of one or more first line drugs (carbamazepine, lamotrigine or levetiracetam) AND Failure of one or more 2nd line drugs (topiramate, pregabalin, lacosamide, zonisamide or perampanel) Brivaracetam should not be used concomitantly with levetiracetam as available evidence suggests there is no additional benefit from use of this combination. Brivaracetam will be initiated by a consultant neurologist (epilepsy specialist) in a tertiary care setting in line with the SEL Anti-Epileptic Drug Treatment Pathway for Focal Epilepsy. Other adjunctive drug options at this stage of the treatment pathway are: perampanel, phenobarbital, retigabine, and vigabatrin. Where more than one drug is considered suitable for the patient at this stage (taking into account individual patient factors), the drug with the lowest acquisition cost should be chosen. Treatment with brivaracetam should be stopped in patients who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fail to achieve a significant reduction in seizure frequency (defined as a 50% or more reduction despite optimum doses of the drug) Fail to achieve a significant reduction in seizure severity despite optimum doses of the drug Experience a combination of side effects significant enough to warrant discontinuation Have a combination of the above factors The hospital will prescribe and supply the medication for at least the first six months (or later if stable dose not reached in 6 months), of treatment after which the GP may be requested to take over prescribing. This arrangement will be reviewed after 1 year, once more experience has been gained with brivaracetam.
Shared Care/ Transfer of care required:	The Committee has agreed that this will not be necessary for brivaracetam.
Cost Impact for agreed patient group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local expert opinion suggests that ~80 patients will be started on brivaracetam in SEL in the first year, 30% achieve a significant response and the retention rate at one year is 60%-70%. Treatment with brivaracetam costs ~ £1,690 per person per year (excluding VAT) Assuming 80 patients are treated, this equates to a total cost across SEL of ~£135,200 per year (excluding VAT). In some cases the cost will be a substitution/part-substitution for other anti-epilepsy medicines.

Usage Monitoring & Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusts to monitor use and submit usage data and audit reports (against this recommendation and the epilepsy treatment pathway) upon request to the APC. CCGs to monitor ePACT data. Exception reports from GPs if inappropriate prescribing requests are made to primary care.
Evidence reviewed	References (from evidence evaluation) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NICE guidance. Epilepsies: diagnosis and management. Available from: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg137/resources/epilepsies-diagnosis-and-management-35109515407813. [Accessed 12th May 2016] Elwes R, Nashef L and Jones, S. South East London Anti-Epileptic Drug Treatment Pathway for Focal Epilepsy. 2014. UCB Pharma Limited. Briviact film-coated tablets. Available from: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/31452. [Accessed 12th May 2016] Cochrane Library. Qin Z. et al. Brivaracetam add-on therapy for epilepsy. Available from: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD011501/full. [Accessed 12th May 2016] Biton V et al. Brivaracetam as adjunctive treatment for uncontrolled partial epilepsy in adults: a phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Epilepsia. 2014; 55(1):57–66. Klein P, Schiemann J, Sperling MR, et al. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter, parallel-group study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of adjunctive brivaracetam Ryvlin P, et al. Adjunctive brivaracetam in adults with uncontrolled focal epilepsy: results from a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Epilepsia. 2014;55(1):47–56. UCB Pharma Limited. Briviact 10mg/ml oral solution. Available from: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/31453. [Accessed 12th May 2016] UCB Pharma Limited. Briviact 10 mg/ml solution for injection/infusion. Available from: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/31457. [Accessed 12th May 2016]

NOTES:

- Area Prescribing Committee recommendations and minutes are available publicly on member CCG websites.
- This Area Prescribing Committee recommendation has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The recommendation will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.
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