

VERTEX STATEMENT ON ACCESS TO OUR CF MEDICINES IN THE UK

Securing access to our CF medicines for all those across the UK who may benefit remains an absolute priority for Vertex. We have now put forward a bold solution to the NHS, and received commitment, in principle, to taking forward negotiations across all regions of the UK. While this is encouraging, two years have now gone by since we began the NHS appraisal process for our latest treatment. For people with CF every day counts and it is now vital that all parties work together to make progress as quickly as possible.

The challenge in front of us

The current lack of access to one of our latest CF medicines continues to highlight the need for change in how innovative new treatments are assessed for use within the NHS. Without action, the challenges we face today could mean future CF innovations are out of reach for people across the UK. To place this in some context, Vertex anticipates numerous applications new licences (or licence adaptations) for our CF medicines in the coming years. Our hope is that our licensed medicines will eventually address the underlying cause of CF for up to approximately 90 percent of people living with the disease.

What we are proposing

Vertex has been proactively addressing this challenge, developing a 'portfolio approach' that we have put forward to the NHS. In short, this is a solution that would provide access to all our current CF medicines today and accelerate access to those we bring forward in the future. The principle of this idea has already been used to secure access to our CF medicines in The Republic of Ireland and we firmly believe that it can be made to work across the UK.

Next steps across the four UK nations

Vertex' portfolio approach has been initially well received by NHS representatives. However, we are now seeking commitment to progressing formal negotiations as quickly as possible. A summary of discussions to date and critical next steps is as follows:

England

Our portfolio approach has been presented to senior members of *NHS England* (NHSE) who have suggested that another meeting now be held to allow all decision makers come together to review it in greater detail. This will be facilitated by the *National Institute for Health and Care Excellence* (NICE). Vertex requested that this be held in September; however, we have recently been informed that it will likely now take place towards the end of October. Our aim will be to begin formal negotiations as soon as possible after this meeting.

Scotland

Vertex has met with representatives from *NHS Procurement Scotland* who have agreed in principle to review our portfolio approach. A meeting to review our proposal in detail is now being scheduled and our aim will be to initiate formal negotiations at this point, or as soon as possible after this date.

Wales

In August, the Welsh body responsible for specialised medicines took our portfolio approach proposal to the *All Wales Medicines Strategy Group* (AWMSG). Feedback was positive and we

understand that the AWMSG will now review our proposal in greater detail at their next meeting in September. We continue to ask for a rapid review and remain ready to meet at short notice to progress negotiations.

Northern Ireland

In August, Vertex met with representatives from *Health and Social Care Northern Ireland* (HSCNI) to discuss our portfolio approach. The indication we have been clearly given is that HSCNI are willing to consider it and see strong potential for mutual benefit. However, it was indicated that progressing formal negotiations in Northern Ireland may take some considerable time. Vertex has requested that a date be set to formally begin discussions with HSCNI and the Permanent Secretary for Health. The need for a swift resolution in Northern Ireland is particularly acute given the current inequity of access across the border with The Republic of Ireland, where a similar portfolio agreement now means a number of our CF medicines are already available.

Vertex has been at the helm of a transformative shift in CF treatment and our significant investment in R&D is now offering promise that we may be able to help more people with this disease than ever before. We now need our innovation in to be matched by a willingness from the NHS to work with us. We recognise that unprecedented challenges are being faced in the NHS; however, a solution is possible and we remain willing to meet anytime, anywhere to deliver this.

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