

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC10 **Interventions for non-union fracture: Low-intensity Pulsed Ultrasound (marketed in the UK as the Exogen® system) and teriparatide**

Recommendation made by the Priorities Committee: **November 2014**

Date of issue: **July 2016**

The Exogen® ultrasound bone healing system delivers low-intensity pulsed ultrasound waves that aim to promote bone healing through stimulating the production of growth factors and proteins which increase the removal of old bone and the production of new bone. Long-bone fractures are suitable for treatment if the fracture is stable and well-aligned.

The Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for treatment of non-union fractures and **recommends** that Exogen® can be considered for suitable skeletally mature patients to treat long bone fractures with non-union (failure to heal after 9 months).

NHS funding for Exogen® in delayed fracture healing is considered a **Not Normally Funded** treatment.

This policy criteria is in alignment with the [NICE MTG12 \(2013\) EXOGEN ultrasound bone healing system for long bone fractures with non-union or delayed healing](#)

Long-bones are defined as tibia, fibula, femur, radius, ulnar and humerus (and excludes clavicle), for the purposes of this policy, as per the evidence considered by NICE MTG12.

The Priorities Committee recommends that NHS funding for treatment of non-union fractures with teriparatide should be a **low priority** on grounds of limited evidence of clinical effectiveness, and lack of evidence of cost effectiveness.

”Note: patients with lifestyle factors which are known to delay fracture healing rates, such as use of tobacco or nicotine, need to be appropriately counselled and referrals to specific support services should be arranged as appropriate.

NOTES:

- *Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.*
- *This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.*
- *Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.ccsu.nhs.uk/>*