

Job Bag Number: UK-UNB-5847
Date of preparation: June 2024

Executive Summary of Collaboration Agreement:

Project name: Initiating a Patient-Centric CAR-T Service

Organisations involved: Gilead Sciences Ltd and Western General Hospital.

Project Overview:

Over 10,000 patients are diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) each year in the UK. Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) is an innovative therapy with a curative intent indicated for certain NHL types, increasingly being used in National Health Service (NHS) hospitals. Infusion of CAR-T is a logistically heavy process requiring co-ordination of different teams, and unique clinical expertise for the therapy delivery and the overall patient management is crucial.

With many NHS clinics being under-resourced and the number of patients benefitting from CAR-T predicted to increase, current unmet needs include:

- Lack of consistent and clear communication/assessment through a dedicated specialist nurse and pharmacist team both pre- and post-CAR T therapy
- Lack of consistent educational programmes for healthcare professionals in the referring hospitals related to patient eligibility, shared care model, long term follow-up and changes in the patient pathway, often lead to unnecessary delays or inefficiencies in patient identification, referral, and treatment.
- Lack of consistent patient holistic needs assessment resulting in poor patient experiences

Although different stakeholders within the NHS (e.g., doctors, nurses, and pharmacists), currently undertake in part the above activities, there is a lack of resources dedicated exclusively to early education of referring centres and improvement of patient experience.

Project Objectives:

With Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, recently qualified as a CAR-T Delivery Treatment Centre (DTC), this Collaborative Working Project (CWP) aims to provide dedicated resources for 24 months to address the above unmet needs through collaboration between the NHS and Gilead. In addition, the project outcomes will be published to inform other hospitals.

As part of this CWP, a Band 7 full-time Clinical Nurse Specialist with experience in lymphoma treatment will:

- Set-up a joint nurse/pharmacy clinic with consultant oversight to assess and better prepare patients for CAR T administration and follow them up more effectively in the post-treatment period.
- Enhance education to appropriate stakeholders both within Lothian and referring hospitals.
- Develop a smooth CAR-T pathway for patients from the moment CAR-T is considered supporting the different multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and facilitating patient care.
- Implement a holistic needs assessment approach to improve the overall patient experience.

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- Collect and publish qualitative and quantitative data focusing on the service development/improvement, patient experience, and patient performance on treatment.

Collaboration with Gilead will take place, where appropriate, to meet these objectives.

The following **patient benefits** are anticipated:

- Patients will benefit from a smooth CAR-T pathway (including referral, pre-habilitation, apheresis, bridging chemotherapy, lymphodepletion, CAR-T delivery, discharge, post-habilitation and long-term care)
- Patients will be better supported throughout their treatment pathway, which will improve their overall experience.
- Patients will benefit from a focused follow-up model after their treatment, which can reduce the side-effect burden, improve post-treatment experience and result in diagnosis of potential relapses at an earlier time point.

The following **benefits to the NHS** are anticipated:

- Establishment of patient pathways for smooth referral and treatment
- More efficient use of resources
- Better health outcomes
- Closer collaboration of the MDTs
- Education on CAR-T treatment
- Improved productivity by freeing up consultant time to see complex patients.
- Publication of the service development outcomes

The following **benefits to Gilead** are anticipated:

- A stronger partnership with the NHS.
- Gaining a better understanding of the patient disease pathway and CAR-T treatment experience.
- Potential improved use of CAR-T, including Gilead/Kite CAR-T, due to an optimised patient-focused shared-care treatment model.
- Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high-quality patient services and care.

Contact:

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