

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06679/19

Dr Kate Adcock
Director of Research and Innovation
Muscular Dystrophy UK

Doug Henderson
Managing Director
Spinal Muscular Atrophy UK

j.kingsley@muscular dystrophyuk.org

13 June 2019

Dear Dr Adcock and Mr Henderson,

Thank you for your joint letter of 28 May on behalf of Muscular Dystrophy and Spinal Muscular Atrophy UK about access to nusinersen (Spinraza®) as a treatment for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

In Wales, we take an evidence-based approach to deciding which treatments should be routinely available. To do this, we rely upon the expert advice of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and our own appraisal body, the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG). These two bodies analyse the clinical benefits and the cost charged by the manufacturer to assess if the benefits are in balance with the price the NHS will have to pay. In doing this, they take advice from expert clinicians and take account of patient views.

All medicines that have been recommended by NICE or AWMSG must be made available by the NHS in Wales, where clinically appropriate, within two months of being recommended. This ensures that resources are used to best effect to bring about the most benefits for people across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
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Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.