



Summary of NICE Guidelines

Title	Rituximab for the first-line maintenance treatment of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
NICE Reference	TA226
Date of Review:	22/06/2011
Date of Publication	May 2014
Summary of Guidance (Max 250 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rituximab maintenance therapy is recommended for first-line treatment of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that has responded to a combination of first-line induction therapy with Rituximab and chemotherapy.• The guidelines summarise the results of a clinical trial that has been conducted to assess the clinical efficacy and cost implications of the above treatment.• Rituximab maintenance therapy as opposed to the usual "watchful waiting" regime is deemed the optimal practice for management of the condition as it enables a longer remission period, a better quality of life and may more effectively delay relapse.• Rituximab maintenance therapy improves progression-free survival compared to observation for at least 36 months and was generally cost-effective.• Adverse effects of the treatment are usually well tolerated, easy to manage and are likely to be less severe than use of chemotherapy.
Impact on Lab (See Appendix 1)	■ Moderate: This NICE guideline has information that is of relevance to our pathology service and may require review of our current service provision.
Lab professionals to be made aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultant Haematologist• Haematology staff
Please detail the impact of this guideline (Max 150 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff should be mindful of the associated blood and bone marrow toxicity. Neutropenia and leukopenia may be characteristic.

Appendix 1

- **None:** This NICE guideline has no impact on the provision of laboratory services
- **Moderate:** This NICE guideline has information that is of relevance to our pathology service and may require review of our current service provision.
- **Important:** This NICE guideline is of direct relevance to our pathology service and will have a direct impact on one or more of the services that we currently offer.