

Switching Patients from IV Atezolizumab to SC Atezolizumab

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This policy has been written in context of National policy with acknowledgement to the Northern Cancer Alliance Chemotherapy administration policy as a reference.			
(NOTE: Review dates may alter if any significant changes are made).		REVIEW DATE: 05 March 2026	

AMENDMENT HISTORY

(Complete for existing documents that need amendment within their 3 year life span)

Version No.	Date of Issue	Page/Selection Changed	Description of Change	Review Date

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Introduction

Atezolizumab is now available as a subcutaneous (SC) formulation. This has the advantage of being simpler to prepare and has a shorter administration time over the intravenous (IV) formulation.

However, the SC atezolizumab must be given every 3 weeks, whereas IV is usually given every 4 weeks.

Also, the side effect profile of SC atezolizumab differs to the IV in that patients may experience injection site reactions.

Hence, the change in treatment must be discussed with the patient before switching. This could be done by the doctor, nurse or pharmacist during a clinic review or chemotherapy unit visit.

Leaflets for this purpose have been produced by Roche and are available from mike.jones.mj4@roche.com

Which Patients to Switch

Patients who have had no prior reaction to IV atezolizumab can be switched to SC.

Patients receiving atezolizumab for metastatic triple negative breast cancer (mTNBC) with chemotherapy should remain on IV atezolizumab until the chemotherapy is stopped and then may be switched to SC.

Process for switching to SC in iQemo

1. Do not cancel the IV regimen until the SC has been set up and scheduled.
2. Click "Add course" and complete the fields to set up a new course of treatment, using the SC atezolizumab version of the current regimen. Remember to change the starting cycle number to the number of the next cycle due.
3. If the treatment duration is restricted e.g. in adjuvant treatment, ensure that the number of cycles is correct.
4. Make any additions or amendments to co-prescribed drugs consistent with the previous prescription.
5. Inform nursing staff of change in prescription and ask them to schedule the new treatment in iQemo.
6. Once the SC regimen has been scheduled, cancel the IV one.