

Helping patients access Keytruda treatment

Pembrolizumab, marketed as Keytruda, has been developed for treatment of mesothelioma; demonstrating early, ground breaking efficacy, with low toxicity and presenting a new and exciting advance in the field.

At the moment in the UK however, the treatment is not licenced in England and Wales as second line treatment. The only options currently available on demonstrated progression are further chemotherapy, or palliative care options.

However, early studies of immunotherapy treatments and anti-angiogenesis therapies are showing some positive results. Funding treatment through claims against the insurers responsible for causing this disease is one way of advancing our collective knowledge about these new therapies.

Thompsons' specialist asbestos lawyers have vast experience of acting for, and campaigning to support, families who have been affected by asbestos disease. We have experience of securing interim payments for patients for Alimta, a lung cancer treatment previously similarly unlicensed but now available as standard following NICE approval.

Only when the suitability of patients for Keytruda or other treatment has been properly assessed by qualified, experienced medical practitioners, would we then pursue the cost of the treatment as part of the compensation claim against the former employer's insurers. Patients would be referred to healthcare specialists in the medical management of mesothelioma, including recognised oncologists. With their expert medical opinion and support, in appropriate cases, we can help patients to obtain compensation payments to access the treatment at no cost to the NHS.

We understand that this treatment is not suitable for everyone. However, by exploring this option to identify appropriate cases and by securing interim payments, we can, and have been able to, help patients gain access to potentially beneficial, ground breaking treatment that would, in any other circumstances, be beyond them.

Our specialist asbestos litigation team

Thompsons Solicitors brought about the first ever successful case for asbestos-related disease in the UK in the House of Lords in 1972 and we have established a reputation as the leading firm of asbestos litigation solicitors.

We have a dedicated team located in a network of offices across the UK who deal exclusively with compensation claims relating to asbestos disease. We have close working links with a number of asbestos victim support groups, Mesothelioma UK and The Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund.

Our expert asbestos lawyers have access to a wealth of background information which enables us to investigate and pursue cases for clients suffering from asbestos-related disease.



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