Award

Manufacture and testing of overencapsulated tablets and placebo capsules for research purposes - LAMDARCT clinical trial

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - view information about notice types
Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080735
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f108 (view related notices)
Published 8 December 2025, 3:49pm

Scope

Reference

DAC 20211

Description

This procurement is for the manufacture and testing of over encapsulated tablets and placebo capsules for research purposes - LAMDARCT clinical trial

Contract 1. Manufacture and testing of overencapsulated tablets and placebo capsules for research purposes - LAMDARCT clinical trial

Supplier

- ALMAC CLINICAL SERVICES LIMITED

Contract value

- £494,447.50 excluding VAT
- £593,337 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

18 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 5 January 2026 to 5 January 2030
- 4 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33600000 - Pharmaceutical products

Contract locations

- UKN - Northern Ireland

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Prototypes and development

Schedule 5, (2) The public contract concerns the production of a prototype, or supply of other novel goods or services, for the purpose of (c) other research, experiment, study or development.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of visual loss. There are two main forms of AMD: dry and wet. The current wet AMD treatment is intravitreal antiVEGF injections, repeated every 4-12 weeks. Due to the cost of the medication, the route and frequency of administration, this treatment is a significant burden on the NHS budget. An

additional treatment option for wet AMD is L-dopa. L-dopa is a widely available drug (used in treatment of Parkinson's), typically in the form of Carbidopa-L-Dopa. It is taken as an oral tablet and is significantly cheaper than the antiVEGF injections.

The study will be a placebo-controlled clinical trial. Eligible patients will be randomised to receive either 100mg L-DOPA+25mg carbidopa or placebo twice a day, for 24 months, in addition to the current standard of care to determine if this is a more cost-effective and easier-to-administer treatment regime than the current standard of care. ?

To 'blind' this clinical trial (to reduce bias) requires the development, manufacture and testing of over encapsulated 100mg L-DOPA+25mg carbidopa tablets and development and manufacture of matching placebo capsules. The expertise required to develop and manufacture these capsules in the quantity required for this trial requires outsourcing to a manufacturer licensed by the MHRA possessing the necessary technical expertise.

Supplier

ALMAC CLINICAL SERVICES LIMITED

- Companies House: NI041905
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRCD-2287-GMQG

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Region: UKN07 - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

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Contracting authority

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLQJ-5727-JCLR

Trust Headquarters, 2nd Floor, Non Clinical Support Building, Royal Victoria Hospital

Belfast

BT12 6BA

United Kingdom

Email: FinanceProcurement@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland