

An audit of the RAG rating of SGLT2 inhibitors and MRAs for Integrated Care Boards within England

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INTRODUCTION

SGLT2 inhibitors, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin, and finerenone are licensed for use in the United Kingdom for the treatment of chronic kidney disease. NICE guidance was published for dapagliflozin in March 2022, empagliflozin in December 2023 and finerenone in March 2023. Despite this guidance, the use of these medications has not been widespread in many areas. Integrated Care Board (ICB) medication optimisation committees denote a RAG rating to medications;

- red - only be prescribed in secondary or tertiary care
- amber - to be started in secondary or tertiary care and then can be continued in primary care
- green - can be initiated in primary care.

METHOD

We surveyed members of the Renal Pharmacy Group who work in England, during May and June 2024 to see which RAG rating they had in their local area for these particular medications. The data were analysed from the survey monkey responses. For those ICBs that were not represented in the survey, data were collected via ICB formularies available online.

RESULTS

Diagram 1: Dapagliflozin ICB RAG ratings

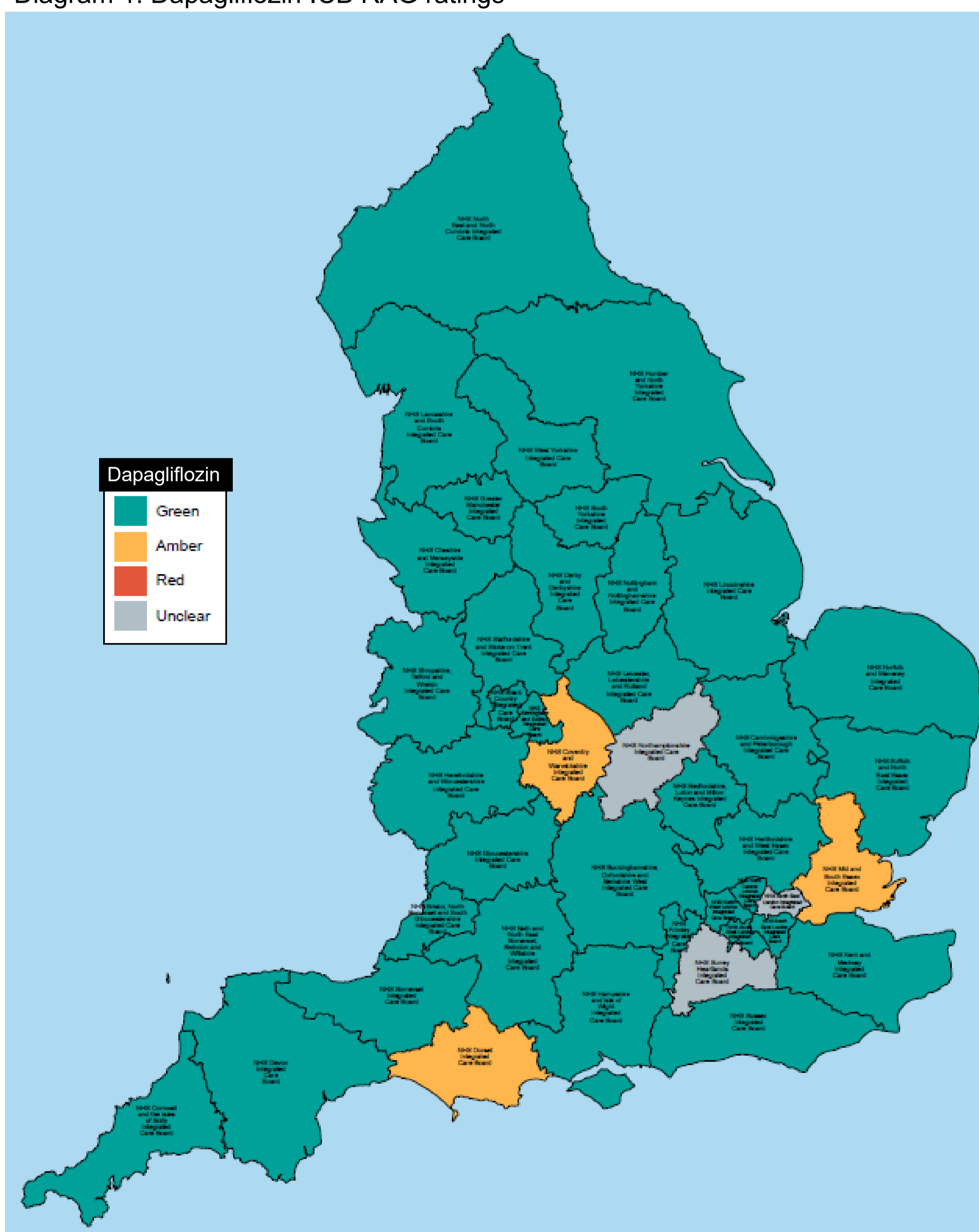
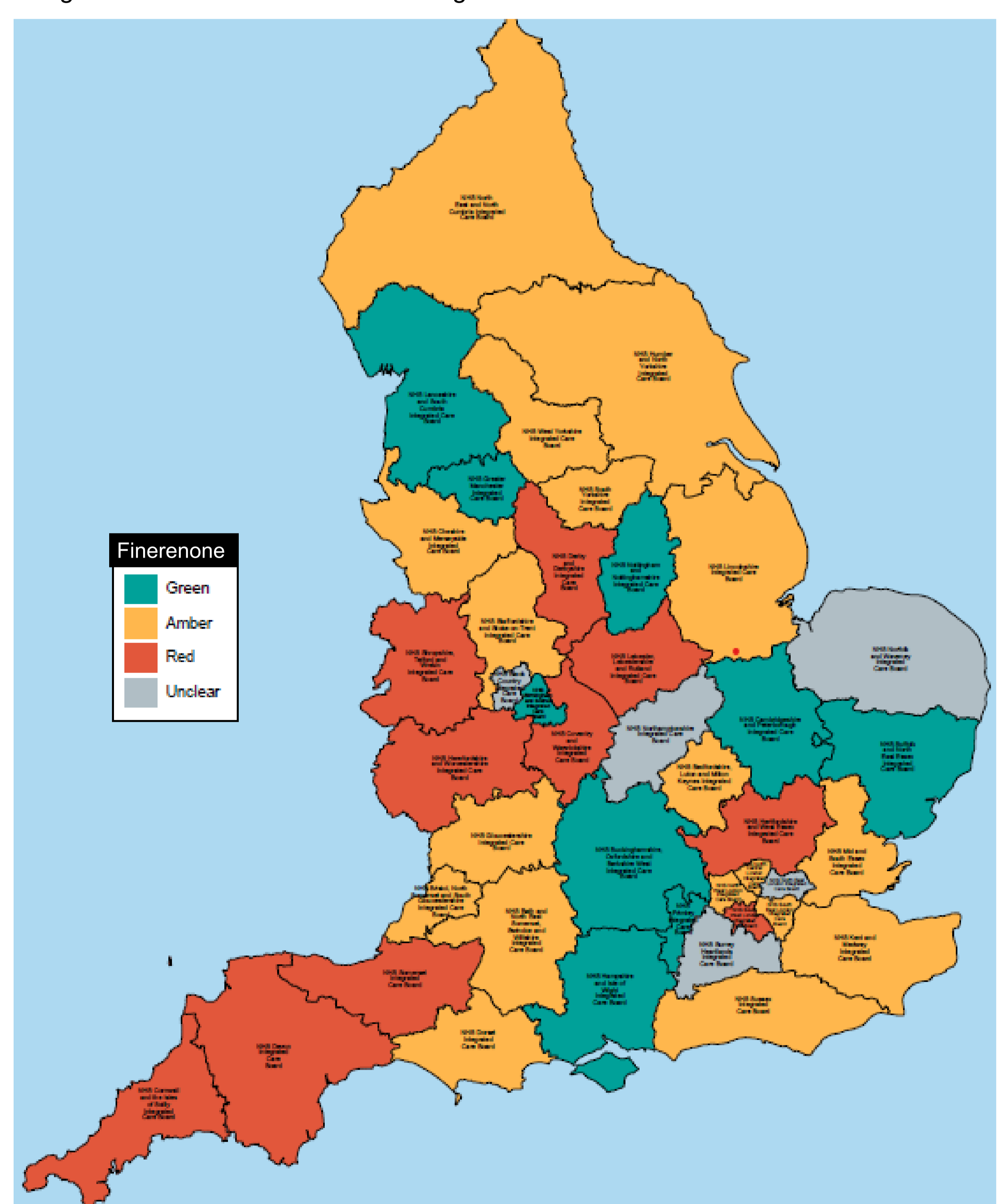


Diagram 2: Finerenone ICB RAG ratings



	% Green	% Amber	% Red	% Unclear
Dapagliflozin	85.7	7.1	0	7.1
Empagliflozin	78.6	7.1	4.8	9.5
Finerenone	17.3	42.9	23.8	11.9

DISCUSSION

These medications have been proven in landmark studies to delay the progression of chronic kidney disease and to reduce cardiovascular mortality. However the prescribing of these medication across England has not been uniform. The variation across England in RAG rating for these medications partly explains why the prescribing has not been similar in different areas. Following on from this audit it is important to investigate reasons why prescribing is not as widespread as predicted and to extend this to the devolved nations. This may be due to training needs or commissioning of these medications or services by ICBs.

REFERENCES

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