



## **Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 7-8 February 2019**

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 95<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

DUSC has a national focus of excellence in collecting, analysing and interpreting data on the utilisation of medicines in Australia for use by the PBAC. Review of the utilisation of medicines is an essential management tool in facilitating the objectives of the National Medicines Policy.

### **Submissions to the PBAC**

DUSC noted that 28 major submissions had been received for the March 2019 meeting of PBAC. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the major submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns. The agenda for the March 2019 PBAC meeting can be found on the [PBS website](#).

### **Utilisation of PBS Listed Medicines**

DUSC regularly examines utilisation of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) items when there is at least 24 months of prescription data available and where DUSC or the PBAC has highlighted items of interest. When an analysis of utilisation is to be undertaken sponsors are notified, provided with a copy of the report and an opportunity to comment prior to the DUSC meeting. Reviews to be considered by the PBAC are also published in the [PBAC meeting agenda](#).

All reports, Sponsor comments and DUSC assessment of the reports are subsequently provided to the PBAC.

The PBAC is committed to understanding consumer perspectives and integrating them into its consideration of medicines and vaccines. Consumers are able to provide their views about medicine utilisation reviews to the PBAC via a [web interface](#).

Full restrictions for PBS listed medicines are available in the [PBS Schedule](#).

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in February 2019:

### **Bendamustine for indolent non-Hodgkins lymphoma (iNHL) and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)**

DUSC compared the predicted and actual utilisation of bendamustine for the treatment of lymphoma in the first 24 months of PBS listing.

In the first and second years of PBS listing, 980 and 1,380 patients received treatment with bendamustine, respectively.

There was some use of bendamustine outside the restriction including patients having more than 6 cycles of bendamustine induction treatment and rituximab maintenance therapy after bendamustine + rituximab (B-R) induction. There may also be a small amount of bendamustine use in previously treated iNHL or MCL patients and in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

### **Eculizumab for atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (aHUS)**

Use of eculizumab for atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (aHUS) continued to grow, although the rate of growth in PBS patients has declined each year. More patients were supplied eculizumab in the third year of listing than predicted, although to a lesser extent than in the first two years of PBS listing. In the previous consideration of eculizumab use (September 2017), DUSC considered that uncertain estimates of Australian aHUS prevalence at the time of listing may be one factor contributing to higher than expected use of eculizumab.

The length of treatment analysis indicated that few patients have a break in eculizumab treatment. It is not possible to obtain the reason for any discontinuation of supply from the available data.

Given use beyond predictions and the high cost of the medicine, DUSC requested a further review of eculizumab use in 12 months' time.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

### **Upcoming Utilisation Analysis of PBS Listed Medicines**

Utilisation of the following medicine has been selected for consideration at future DUSC meetings.

#### **Predicted versus Actual Utilisation Analysis**

- Armodafinil for the treatment of narcolepsy
- Sapropterin for hyperphenylalaninaemia due to tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4) deficiency

#### **Analysis of multiple medicines in a treatment area**

- Gonadotrophin releasing hormone agonists (goserelin, leuprorelin, nafarelin) for the treatment of carcinoma of the prostate, central precocious puberty (CPP), breast cancer, endometriosis, and anticipated premature ovarian failure.

An outcome statement will be available following each meeting of DUSC. For further information, please contact the DUSC Secretariat at [DUSC@health.gov.au](mailto:DUSC@health.gov.au).

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