4.01 Lumacaftor and ivacaftor,
Tablet containing lumacaftor 100 mg with ivacaftor 125 mg, Orkambi®,
Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd

1. Purpose of submission
	1. The Category 2 submission provided data to address the requirements of the Deed of Agreement dated 10 September 2018, as varied on 18 October 2019 (referred to herein as the Deed), between the sponsor and the Commonwealth for the supply of lumacaftor/ivacaftor and tezacaftor/ivacaftor for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients homozygous for the F508 deletion.
2. Background

Previous PBAC consideration

* 1. Lumacaftor/ivacaftor was first recommended for listing on the PBS at the July 2018 PBAC meeting for the treatment of patients with CF aged 12 years and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. Lumacaftor/ivacaftor was subsequently recommended for patients aged 6 to 11 years at an out-of-session meeting and in patients aged 2 to 5 years at the July 2019 meeting.
	2. Tezacaftor/ivacaftor was first recommended at the March 2019 PBAC meeting for the treatment of patients with CF who are aged 12 years and older and homozygous for the F508del mutation in the CFTR gene, and those who carry one copy of the F508del mutation and a residual function mutation. Tezacaftor/ivacaftor was subsequently recommended for patients with CF who have at one least RF mutation on the CFTR gene at the November 2019 PBAC meeting.
	3. When recommending lumacaftor/ivacaftor and tezacaftor/ivacaftor for listing, the PBAC advised that the Minister implement measures to mitigate uncertainties associated with their cost-effectiveness and overall costs to the PBS. Those measures included a Managed Access Program (MAP) that would allow patients to access treatment through the PBS whilst providing the sponsor with an extended period to provide further data to satisfy the PBAC that the benefits of treatment are sustained over a longer period (paragraphs 6.73-6.79, lumacaftor/ivacaftor public summary document (PSD), July 2018 PBAC meeting).
	4. In July 2018 the PBAC expressed the view that while there was evidence that lumacaftor/ivacaftor slows the rate of decline in percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second (ppFEV1) and reduces pulmonary exacerbations up to 96 weeks for some patients, the sustainability of these benefits in the longer term remained uncertain (paragraph 7.8, lumacaftor/ivacaftor PSD, July 2018 PBAC meeting).It was recommended that pursuant to the MAP the sponsor be required to provide data to satisfy the PBAC that the rate of decline in ppFEV1 and reduction in pulmonary exacerbations are sustained over a longer period of time of up to 4 years.
	5. The decline in lung function of patients treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared with patients receiving BSC only (as measured by the relative rate of decline (rROD) in ppFEV1) was a key input used in the sponsor’s July 2018 economic model. The assumption in the model was of a ppFEV1 rROD of 42%, which was informed by a post-hoc analysis where patients receiving lumacaftor/ivacaftor from PROGRESS (an extension study) were matched to eligible control patients from the United States Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry (CFFPR) (Figure 1) (Konstan 2017). The PBAC recalled the Konstan 2017 study excluded the initial increase in ppFEV1 in the first 3 weeks of treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor from the rate of decline calculation.

Figure 1: Estimated annual rate of ppFEV1, decline with lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared with a matched control group



Source: Konstan 2017 Figure 3 p10.

* 1. In its considerations in July 2018 the PBAC raised a number of concerns regarding the data used for this analysis, including the use of historical US patients for the control cohort (who tend to have worse clinical outcomes compared to ex-US patients). The US patients were compared with patients in a clinical trial extension study (PROGRESS) which included patients from other countries and trial patients might have been expected to have benefited from optimisation of other aspects of care (paragraph 6.25, lumacaftor/ivacaftor PSD, July 2018 PBAC meeting,). The Pre-Sub-Committee Response (PSCR) disagreed with the assertion that US CF patients have a worse treatment outcome than in other countries, and stated that this has been disproved statistically in recent publications (Schluter et al, 2021; Goss et al, 2014).
1. Summary of the MAP requirements in the Deed
	1. A summary of the obligations as stipulated in the Deed and how the submission claimed to address the obligations is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Obligations as stated in the Deed and the documentation as provided in the Submission**

| Deed | Submission |
| --- | --- |
| Clause 3.4.2.aThe Company’s analysis of the rate of decline in lung function in the Report and the application of the point estimate value for rate of decline in lung function in the Company’s economic model for Lumacaftor with Ivacaftor 6+ to assess any change in cost effectiveness | Pooled ppFEV1 rROD = 55.7% (from 42%)ICER = $''''''''''''''''''1/QALY in CF patients over 2 years of age (from $''''''''''''''''''''2/QALY) |
| Clause 3.4.2.cIf the Company’s analysis of the point estimate value for rate of decline in lung function shows that the assumptions about the rate of decline in lung function in the Company’s economic model for Lumacaftor with Ivacaftor 6+ are exceeded during treatment, the degree to which those assumptions are exceeded | As above.  |
| Att B, Clause B.1. Study VX15-809-110 Att B, Clause B.1.1.The Company must finalise and submit to the Commonwealth and the PBAC the full clinical study reports for the interim and final analyses of VX15-809-110  | The submission provided the final Clinical Study Report for Study VX15-809-110 dated 24 August 2020.  |
| Att B, Clause B.2. Data Collection Att B, Clause B.2.1. The company must prepare and submit the Data Collection Report to the PBAC in accordance with Clause 3.4.2 that at a minimum shows: * The differences in the rates of decline in lung function (ppFEV1) and pulmonary exacerbations (proxy for the use of the use of pulmonary exacerbations may be the use of IV antibiotics) observed over the 96 week trial period which support the PBAC Recommendation for lumacaftor/ivacaftor 6+ are sustained over a longer time period of up to 4 years; or
* The differences in the rates of decline in lung function (ppFEV1) and pulmonary exacerbations (proxy for the use of pulmonary exacerbations may be the use of IV antibiotics) observed over a period of up to 4 years were between those submitted to the PBAC to support the initial recommendation and those of a matched cohort of untreated patients.
* Any other information the Company considers relevant.
 | The submission provided data from 11 studies that reported a rate of decline (ROD) in ppFEV1, where a relative ROD (rROD) with best supportive care (BSC) could be calculated.   |
| Att B, Clause B.2.2. The Data Collection Report must also include the interim report prepared by the Company of the ongoing post market observations study of the long-term efficacy and safety of lumacaftor with ivacaftor 6+ when initiated in patients aged from 6 to 11 years of age, which the Company is required to conduct as a condition of the TGA approval (The Interim Report). | An interim report of Study 129 (VX18-809-129) was provided in the submission.  |
| Att B, Clause B.2.3. As part of the preparation of the Data Collection Report the Company must work with prescribers to ensure patients are registered in the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Database Registry. | The submission did not provide evidence to address this clause. The PSCR stated the Sponsor did not believe it necessary to outline the measures in place to address this requirement within the submission, given that both the PBS restriction and PBS written authority form stipulate that patients must be enrolled in the ACFDR to obtain PBS-subsidised access. The PSCR reported that demographic data are available for 100% of enrolled patients and at least some clinical measures (i.e. ppFEV1 values used in the rate of decline analysis) are available for 96-97% of enrolled patients. |

Source: Table 1.2.1 of the Commentary.

Abbreviations: ACFDR=Australian Cystic Fibrosis Disease Registry; BSC=best supportive care; LUM/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; PBS=Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; PEx=pulmonary exacerbations; ppFEV1=percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second; rROD = relative rate of decline; sd=standard deviation; TGA=Therapeutic Goods Administration

*The redacted values correspond to the following ranges:*

*1 $115,000 to < $135,000/QALY gained*

*2 $155,000 to < $255,000/QALY gained*

* 1. The Deed stipulated (Clause 3.4.3) that if the ppFEV1 rROD is at or above 42%, the Subsidisation Caps for Years 3, 4 and 5 defined as Option 1 in Clause 3.1.3 will apply (Clause 3.4.3a). However, if the ppFEV1 rROD is less than 42%, then the Subsidisation Caps for Years 3, 4, and 5 will be calculated using the following formula (Clause 3.4.3b):

| Subsidisation Cap = [(SSC – MSC) x ROD / 42%] + MSCWhere:SSC: Subsidisation Cap annotated ‘Option 1’ for relevant year (clause 3.1.3)MSC: Minimum Subsidisation Cap annotated under ‘Option 2’ for the relevant year (clause 3.1.3)ROD: point estimate for rate of decline (clause 3.4.2.c) |
| --- |
| *Option 1:*  | *Option 2:* |
| Year 3: $''''''''''''''''''''''''1Year 4: $'''''''''''''''''''''''''1Year 5: $'''''''''''''''''''''''''''''''2 | Year 3: $''''''''''''''''''''''''''3Year 4: $'''''''''''''''''''''''''''4Year 5: $'''''''''''''''''''''''''4 |

*The redacted values correspond to the following ranges:*

*1 $90 million to < $100 million*

*2 $100 million to < $200 million*

*3 $50 million to < $60 million*

*4 $20 million to < $30 million*

1. Consideration of the evidence

Sponsor hearing

* 1. The sponsor requested a hearing for this item. The sponsor stated the longest possible duration of data collection, taking into account product availability, data lags and the impact of COVID-19 on data collection, is approximately 4.3 years in the US and 17 months in Australia. The sponsor reiterated information provided in the PSCR and pre-PBAC response (discussed in relevant sections below).
	2. The sponsor provided additional information in response to a question from the PBAC regarding the magnitude of the initial improvement in ppFEV1 (i.e., in the first month of treatment) observed with the use of CFTR modulators in the real world setting. The response stated it was problematic to determine the exact magnitude of the acute ppFEV1 change in the first month of treatment using registry data, as measurements are typically not entered into registries regularly or frequently enough to do so (generally, measurements are taken quarterly in the real-world setting). In contrast, the publications of Konstan 2017 and Flume 2021 used data from patients who commenced CFTR modulator treatment within the pivotal clinical trials and then follow their extended use beyond those trials. As such, in these studies where the parent trial data is available, it is possible to identify the magnitude and timing of the initial improvement more precisely. The response stated the real-world experience reported in the published literature from prospective cohort studies or retrospective chart reviews shows ppFEV1 increases at 1 month reinforced those seen in the pivotal clinical trials. The PBAC noted the information provided supported an initial increase in ppFEV1 with subsequent stabilisation or small further increases to 12 months (Tong 2020, Ejiofer 2020, Burgel 2020).
	3. The sponsor’s response also provided additional analyses of the PASS 108 study which estimated the rate of decline in ppFEV1 with lumacaftor/ivacaftor over a later time window in order to exclude the initial improvement in ppFEV1 (patients commenced treatment in 2015 with data from 2016 onwards used in the analysis). The results are discussed in paragraph 4.19.

Consumer comments

* 1. The PBAC noted and welcomed the input from individuals (5) via the Consumer Comments facility on the PBS website. The comments reported the high impact CF has on quality of life and the importance of additional treatment options.

Clinical studies

* 1. The submission presented studies in two separate Data Collection Reports:
* Studies that inform rROD: included 11 studies reporting the ROD in ppFEV1 in patients treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor (see Table 2). These studies were used to inform an updated estimate of the ppFEV1 rROD; and
* Studies with lumacaftor/ivacaftor initiated in patients aged from 6 to 11 years: included three studies reporting the use of lumacaftor/ivacaftor in patients aged from 6 to 11 years (see Table 2). The Deed (under Clause B.2.2) requested an interim report of the ongoing post marketing study of the long-term efficacy and safety of lumacaftor with ivacaftor when initiated in patients aged from 6 to 11 years of age. This interim report is referred to as Study 129, which utilised data from the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Disease Registry (ACFDR).
	1. The submission did not include the matched analysis comparing patients from PROGRESS and the US CFFPR (Konstan 2017), which was the study previously used to inform the estimate of ppFEV1 rROD as considered by the PBAC. Konstan 2017 has been re-presented herein.
	2. Details of the studies presented in the submission are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Studies and associated reports presented in the submission**

| Trial ID | Protocol title/ Publication title | Publication citation |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Studies that inform ppFEV1 rROD**  |
| Konstan 2017 | Konstan, M. W., McKone, E. F., Moss, R. B., et al. (2017). Assessment of safety and efficacy of long-term treatment with combination lumacaftor and ivacaftor therapy in patients with cystic fibrosis homozygous for the F508del-CFTR mutation (PROGRESS): A phase 3, extension study. | The Lancet Respiratory Medicine 2017. 5 (2): 107-18. |
| PASS 108 | An Observational Study to Evaluate the Utilisation Patterns and Long-term Effects of Lumacaftor and Ivacaftor Combination Therapy in Patients With Cystic Fibrosis | Internal Study Report., Interim Study Report 3*19 November 2019.*  |
|  | Bower JK, Tian S, Zahigian R, Sewall A, Wu R, Elbert A. Disease progression in F508del homozygous (F/F) persons with cystic fibrosis treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor (LUM/IVA): interim results of a long-term safety study using data from the US Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry (CFFPR).  | J Cyst Fibros 2020; 19S2(suppl):S21 |
|  | Knox C, Volkova N, Han Z, Wu R, Wang LT, Elbert A, Tian S. Real-world outcomes among patients with cystic fibrosis treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor (LUM/IVA) in 2017: an interim analysis of data from the US CF Foundation Patient Registry (CFFPR).  | J Cystic Fibrosis 2019; 18 (Supp 1):S22-S23. |
| Flume 2021 | Flume P, Fischer Biner R, Downey DG, et al. Long-term safety and efficacy of tezacaftor–ivacaftor in individuals with cystic fibrosis aged 12 years or older who are homozygous or heterozygous for Phe508del CFTR (EXTEND): an open-label extension study.  | Lancet Respir Med 2021. Published Online, February 10, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1016/ S2213-2600(20)30510-5 |
| Tong 2020 | Tong K, Barker D, France M et al. Lumacaftor/ivacaftor reduces exacerbations in adults homozygous for Phe508del mutation with severe lung disease.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2020;19(3):415-20. |
|  | Tong K, Dorahy D, France M et al. A multicentre, observational cohort study to determine the efficacy and safety of lumacaftor/ivacaftor in patients with severe lung disease and cystic fibrosis | European Respiratory Journal. 2019;54(Supplement 63). |
|  | Wark PA, Tong K, Dorahy D et al. A multicentre, observational casecontrol study to determine the effect of lumacaftor/ivacaftor in patients with severe lung disease and cystic fibrosis.  | Pediatric Pulmonology. 2019;54(Supplement 2):432 |
| ACFDR (≥ 12y) | Final ACFDR ppFEV1 ROD report | Internal Study Report 1 February 2021 |
| Bourgani 2019 | Bourgani E, Stagaki E, Gioka M, et al. Two years' experience of lumacaftor/ivacaftor treatment at an adult cystic fibrosis centre in Athens, Greece.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2019;18(Suppl1):S132. |
| Mermis 2019 | Mermis J, Polineni D, He J. "real world" impact of CFTR modulators (lumacaftor/ivacaftor and tezacaftor/ ivacaftor) on long-term patient outcomes.  | Pediatric Pulmonology. 2019;54(Suppl2):350-1. |
| Muilwijk 2020 | Muilwijk D, Zomer DD, Gulmans VAM, et al. Real-world trends in long-term clinical outcomes of lumacaftor/ivacaftor.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2020;19(Suppl2):S70-S1. |
| French CF Network |  |  |
| Collet 2018 | Collet C, Bui S, Mittaine M, et al. Lumacaftor/ivacaftor in real life for Phe508del homozygous, adolescents with severe and normal lung function.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2018;17(Suppl3):S66. |
| Burgel 2020 | Burgel P-R, Munck A, Durieu I, et al. Real-Life Safety and Effectiveness of Lumacaftor-Ivacaftor in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis.  | American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. 2020;201(2):188-97. |
|  | Burgel PR, Hubert D, Munck A, et al. Real-life initiation of lumacaftor/ivacaftor in adolescents and adults homozygous for the F508del CFTR mutation: a French nationwide study.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2019;18(Suppl1):S132. |
| Ejiofor 2020  | Ejiofor LCK, Mathiesen IHM, Jensen-Fangel S, et al. Patients with cystic fibrosis and advanced lung disease benefit from lumacaftor/ivacaftor treatment.  | Pediatric Pulmonology. 2020;55(12):3364-70. |
| King 2021 | King SJ, Keating D, Williams E et al. Lumacaftor/ivacaftor-associated health stabilisation in adults with severe cystic fibrosis.  | ERJ Open Res 2021; 7 [https://doi.org/ 10.1183/23120541.00203-2020]. |
| Loukou 2020 | Loukou I, Moustaki M, Plyta M, Douros K. Longitudinal changes in lung function following initiation of lumacaftor/ivacaftor combination.  | Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. 2020;19(4):534-9. |
| **Studies where lumacaftor/ivacaftor were initiated from ages 6 to 11 years**  |
| Study 110 (VX15-809-110) | A Phase 3, Rollover Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Long-term Treatment With Lumacaftor in Combination With Ivacaftor in Subjects Aged 6 Years and Older With Cystic Fibrosis, Homozygous for the F508del-CFTR Mutation | Internal Study Report 24 August 2020 |
| Chilvers MA, Davies JC, Carlos M, Tian S, Zifei H, Cornell A. Long-term safety and efficacy of lumacaftor–ivacaftor therapy in children aged 6–11 years with cystic fibrosis homozygous for the F508del-CFTR mutation: a phase 3, open-label, extension study.  | Lancet Resp Med 2021S2213-2600(20)30517-8 |
| Study 129 | An Observational Study to Evaluate the Real-world Clinical Outcomes of Orkambi in Australian Patients With Cystic Fibrosis Aged 6 Through 11 Years at Therapy Initiation | Internal Study Report v1.0 dated 18 February 2021 |
| PASS 108 | An Observational Study to Evaluate the Utilisation Patterns and Long-term Effects of Lumacaftor and Ivacaftor Combination Therapy in Patients With Cystic Fibrosis | Internal Study Report., Interim Study Report 3*19 November 2019.* |
| Bower JK, Tian S, Zahigian R, Sewall A, Wu R, Elbert A. Disease progression in F508del homozygous (F/F) persons with cystic fibrosis treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor (LUM/IVA): interim results of a long-term safety study using data from the US Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry (CFFPR).  | J Cyst Fibros 2020; 19S2(suppl):S21 |

Source: Table 14 p26 of the submission.

* 1. Eleven studies were used to estimate the pooled ppFEV1 rROD in the submission: PASS 108, Flume 2021, Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muilwijk 2020, an analysis from the Australian CF Disease Registry (referred to as ACFDR ≥ 12 y), Collet 2018, Ejiofor 2020, King 2021, Loukou 2020 and Tong 2020. Of these studies:
* Five studies (PASS 108, Flume 2021, Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muilwijk 2020) were used to inform the base case pooled analysis of the rROD in ppFEV1 presented in the submission. These were studies where patients had received a mean duration of treatment of approximately 2 years (mean range: 1.7 to 2.9 years). Three of these studies were published as abstracts only (Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muilwijk 2020).
* Three studies (ACFDR ≥ 12 y; King 2021; Tong 2020) included patients treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor in Australia. However, these studies were not used in the base case pooled analysis presented in the submission as treatment follow-up was reported after only one year of use.
* Six studies (ACFDR ≥ 12 y, Collet 2018, Ejiofor 2020, King 2021, Loukou 2020, Tong 2020) were included in a sensitivity analysis of the pooled rROD in ppFEV1. The duration of treatment in these studies was one year. The results initially considered by the PBAC reflected data up to 96 weeks of treatment; results after only 1 year would not appear to further the evidence base.The PSCR disagreed with the evaluation that these studies do not add to the evidence base as a basic tenant of the scientific method is reproducibility. The PSCR stated the additional 6 studies with one year of follow-up demonstrate reproducibility with the original Konstan 2017 study which contained matched data over 96 weeks. The ESC noted the requirement of the Deed was to provide data to show that rates of decline are “sustained over a longer period of time of up to 4 years”, rather than reproduce the results from Konstan 2017.
	1. The key features of the studies and the assessment of bias (based on the ROBINS-I tool for assessing risk of bias in non-randomised studies) as undertaken during the evaluation are summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3: Key features of the included evidence**

| Trial | N | Design/ duration | Risk of biasa | Patient population |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Studies that inform rROD  |
| Konstan 2017b | T:455C:1,588N=2,043 | Propensity-score-matched cohort studyTx follow up: 120 weeks | moderate to serious | Aged ≥ 12 years with CF homozygous for the F508del mutationTreatment: Patients from PROGRESSComparator: Patients from US CFFPR.  |
| PASS 108c | T:1,881C:2,686N=4,567 | Prospective, parallel cohort study utilising data collected from existing national CF registries (Data only pertains to US CFFPR in submission)Mean tx duration: 3.0 yrs (3.8 years provided in PSCR).  | moderate to serious | Aged ≥ 12 years with CFc Treatment: Homozygous for the F508del mutationComparator: Heterozygous for the F508del with a Class I/II mutation on the second allele;  |
| Flume 2021b | T: 407C:1,383N=1,790 | Propensity-score-matched cohort study Tx follow up: 120 wks;  | moderate to serious | Aged ≥ 12 years with CF homozygous for the F508del mutation.Treatment: Patients from EXTEND (tezacaftor/ivacaftor)Comparator: Patients from US CFFPR |
| Tong 2020 | T: 72C: 33N=105 | Matched parallel cohort study; analysis of patients through a compassionate use program in Australia.Tx duration: at least 1 year | moderate to critical | Aged ≥ 12 yearsppFEV1 < 40%Treatment: Homozygous for the F508delComparator: Class I or II mutations |
| ACFDR (≥ 12y) | 126 | Paired historic control cohort study, analysis of data from the Australian CF disease Registry (ACFDR)(mean tx duration: 1.2 yrs) | moderate to critical | Aged ≥ 12 years with CF homozygous for the F508del mutation.ppFEV1: 40% - 90% |
| Bourgani 2019 (abstract only) | 46 | Paired historic control cohort study, single centre, OL study in Greece. Mean Tx duration: 1.9 yrs | moderate to critical | Assumed age group: adultsHomozygous for the F508del |
| Mermis 2019 (abstract only) | 85 | Paired historic control cohort study, single centre, OL study in the US.Mean Tx duration: 1.98 yrs | moderate to critical | Aged ≥ 18 years Assumed homozygous for the F508del. Included patients treated with LUMA/IVA or TEZA/IVA |
| Muilwijk 2020 (abstract only) | 70 | Paired historic control cohort study, single centre, OL study in the Netherlands; Dutch CF Registry. Mean Tx duration: 2.4 yrs | moderate to critical | Assumed age group: adultsHomozygous for the F508del |
| Collet 2018 (abstract only) / Burgel 2020 | Collet: 30Burgel: 845. | Prospective cohort study with paired historic control, OL study in France; French CF Reference Network Mean Tx duration: 1.0 yrs | moderate to critical | Homozygous for the F508delCollet: children/adolescentsBurgel: paediatric and adults |
| Ejiofor 2020  | 21 | Paired historic control cohort study, Analysis of patients through a compassionate use program in Denmark. Median Tx duration: 1.3 yrs | moderate to critical | Homozygous for the F508delAdults: ppFEV1 < 30 orChildren: ppFEV1 < 40 ororTwo of the following criteria* Adults ppFEV1 < 40 / children ppFEV1 < 60;
* ppFEV1 slope < −2.5%, last year
* Chronic difficult‐to‐treat pulmonary infection;
* Low BMI
 |
| King 2021 | 24 | Paired historic control cohort study, analysis of patients through a compassionate use program in Australia.Tx duration: 1 year | moderate to critical | Aged ≥ 18 years Homozygous for the F508delppFEV1 < 40% |
| Loukou 2020 | 40d | Paired historic control cohort study; single centre in Greece. Tx duration: 1 year | moderate to critical | Age: 12 to 23 yearsHomozygous for the F508del |
| **Studies where lumacaftor/ivacaftor were initiated from ages 6 to 11 years** |
| Study 110 | 239 | OL, MC, 2-part study96 weeks (Tx follow up: 120 wks)Mean Tx duration: 1.8 yrse | moderate to critical | Aged 6 to 11 years with CF homozygous for the F508del mutation. |
| Study 129 | 179 | OL, MC, analysis of data from the ACFDR. Mean Tx duration: 0.8 yrs | moderate to critical | Aged 6 to 11 years. Australian patients with CF homozygous for the F508del mutation;  |
| **Pooled-analysis** | Assessed ppFEV1 rROD |  |  |  |
| Base case | 2,489f | Included studies: PASS 108 (≥ 12 y), Flume 2021, Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muiljilk 2020 |
| Sensitivity | 2,802f | Included studies:ACFDR (≥ 12 y), PASS 108 (≥ 12 y), Flume 2021, Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muilwijk 2020, Collet 2018, Ejiofor 2020, King 2021, Loukou 2020, Tong 2020 |

Source: Constructed using Table 2.4.1, Table 2.4.5, Table 2.4.8 and Table 2.4.10 of the Commentary; Attachment 7 Pooled ppFEV1 rROD Feb 2021.

a Risk of bias assessed using the ROBINS-I tool. Ratings of bias from lowest to highest risk of bias is low, moderate, serious, critical.

b Reported N in Konstan 2017 and Flume 2021 comparing treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor vs. no CFTR modulator use include the number of patients as reported in the post-hoc analyses as presented in the evaluation

c PASS 108: the number of patients as reported in the 2018 Disease Progression Cohorts aged 12 years and over; the number of patient in the Disease Progression Cohorts aged 6 years and older were: Treatment group, N=2,287; Comparator group, N=3,527. PASS 108 also included patients aged from 2 years and older.

d Loukou 2020: N=52, the base of N=40 were used in the submission.

e Mean duration of treatment reported in Study 110 in this table only included the mean time in Study 110. The mean exposure in the parent studies was reported as 159.8 days; ~0.44 years.

f Pooled analysis: N reported in the table is as per N used in the pooled analysis and only included the number of patients in the treatment groups and not the comparator groups

ACFDR=Australian Cystic Fibrosis Disease Registry; BMI=body mass index; CF = cystic fibrosis; LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; MC = multi-centre; NR=not reported; OL = open label; wks=weeks; y=years; ppFEV1= percent predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 second; rROD=relative rate of decline compared with best supportive care; tx=treatment; US=United States;

* 1. The evaluation reported the risk of bias overall for Konstan 2017, PASS 108, and Flume 2021 is moderate to serious; all other studies had a moderate to critical risk of bias. The ESC noted some studies were only available in abstract form and minimal detail regarding methodology was available.
	2. Most studies did not include patients that discontinued treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor in the analyses. Excluding patients that discontinue treatment biases the analyses in favour of the intervention.The PSCR did not agree with this statement. The PSCR stated the research question of relevance was ‘What is the relative reduction in the ppFEV1 rate of decline in FF homozygous CF patients continuing to be treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor, relative to best supportive care’. The PSCR stated this is because in the economic model, a value of 42% for rROD is only applied to those remaining on treatment with those discontinuing treatment reverting immediately to BSC ROD (which is likely a conservative assumption). The PBAC noted the sponsor’s pre-subcommittee response, but considered patients who continue treatment may have a different baseline disease trajectory to those who discontinue, and if the baseline disease trajectory is better in those who continue treatment versus those who discontinue, the benefit of treatment will be overestimated.
	3. There are substantial differences across the studies, including differences in the study designs, baseline characteristics of the patient populations, differences in the use of CFTR modulator therapy and sampling of patients for inclusion in the analyses. The ESC noted the methodological diversity across the study designs and considered quantitatively synthesising evidence of the ppFEV1 rROD by pooling the studies as done in the submission was not appropriate.
	4. The analysis presented for Flume 2021 used a similar methodology to that used in the Konstan 2017 analysis. The PBAC noted that, as in the Konstan study, the Flume study excluded the increase in ppFEV1 in the first 3 weeks of treatment with CFTR modulator from the rate of decline calculation. Propensity score matching was used to compare treatment and historical control groups in Flume 2021 and Konstan 2017. Previously, the ESC raised concerns with respect to the propensity score matching applied between the PROGRESS study and the US CFFPR cohorts in the Konstan study. The methodology used was a single point-in-time rebalancing at baseline, which did not adjust for the imbalance of any post-baseline differences in variables that were not due to the treatment, or differences in data collection between the patients in PROGRESS and the CFFPR cohort, which may have confounded the outcomes (paragraph 6.22, lumacaftor/ivacaftor PSD, July 2018 PBAC meeting). Propensity score matching conducted for Flume 2021 using the same method is subject to the same issues as identified by the PBAC in respect to Konstan 2017.
	5. The ESC noted PASS 108 was an unmatched parallel cohort study comparing patients with CF who were homozygous for the F508del mutation and treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor to patients with CF who were heterozygous for the F508del mutation with a Class I or Class II mutation on the second allele and not treated with a CFTR modulator. The ESC noted the comparative analysis for PASS 108 used only US patients which may mitigate some of the previous concerns regarding the Konstan 2017 analysis which compared US patients to non-US patients (paragraph 2.6). The PBAC noted the PASS 108 study assumed that treated homozygous and untreated heterozygous F508del are exchangeable. The PBAC further noted that a high proportion of patients switched from lumacaftor/ivacaftor to another CFTR modulator (1,823 patients out of 5,508, 33%; PASS 108 Clinical Study Report, Fig 4) and overall only 42% (2,287 patients) of the original year 1 lumacaftor/ivacaftor cohort were included in the ROD analysis. In comparison, 88% of the original year 1 cohort for the control group were included in the ROD analysis. The PBAC noted there are likely to be differences across the cohort of lumacaftor/ivacaftor treated patients included in the analysis (continuers, 42% of patients) versus the cohort of lumacaftor/ivacaftor treated patients excluded from the analysis (discontinuers, 58% of patients), and it is not possible to identify a control cohort equivalent to the lumacaftor/ivacaftor continuers. If the baseline disease trajectory is better in continuers versus discontinuers, the benefit of lumacaftor/ivacaftor treatment will have been overestimated. Overall, the PBAC considered the results of PASS 108 were likely to be biased in favour of treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor**.**
	6. The submission presented an analysis that was commissioned from the ACFDR of patients with CF homozygous for the F508del mutation, aged more than 12 years old initiating lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor between the 1 July 2018 and the 29February 2020, and a ppFEV1 between 40% and 90%. The submission reasoned that the data requested from the ACFDR were specific to patients aged ≥12 years to align with Konstan 2017. The ACFDR had 1,994 patients homozygous for the F508del mutation and 832 initiated treatment after the index date (Figure 2). However, data for only 126 patients (12%) are included in the analysis presented by the submission. The criterion excluding patients based on baseline ppFEV1 that was not between 40% to 90% resulted in the exclusion of 155 people aged ≥12 years (from 500 to 345 patients), which is high given that the data from the ACFDR included by the submission were only from 126 patients. Access to CFTR modulators on the PBS is not limited by ppFEV1.The ESC considered it would have been informative for the analysis of the data from the ACFDR to more closely reflect the use of CFTR modulators in Australian clinical practice (i.e., patients ≥ 2 years, no restriction on ppFEV1), rather than aligning to Konstan 2017 (i.e., restricting to patients aged ≥ 12 year, baseline ppFEV1 40% to 90%).The pre-PBAC response provided some additional analyses without patients excluded on the basis of ppFEV1 (see paragraph 4.24).
	7. For the ACFDR analysis, the submission stated a weighted average annual change (slope) was calculated for each period for each patient and then the mean slope for each period was calculated for the total cohort (n=126). The ESC considered a more appropriate, and more contemporary, method of statistical analysis would use regression techniques that also adjust for the starting ppFEV1 (i.e., a random-intercept, random-slope model). However, the method of statistical analysis was secondary to the ESC concerns about exclusions based on age (<12 years) and ppFEV1 (<40%, >90%). Also, the short follow-up time (1.7 years) meant that the results of the study were not helpful to reduce uncertainty around the input into the economic model (i.e., rROD=42%, sustained over the time horizon of the model).

Figure 2: Flow of participants through the ACFDR

**

ACFDR=Australian Cystic Fibrosis Disease Registry FF= heterozygous for the F508del mutation; L/I=lumacaftor ivacaftor; T/I=tezacaftor ivacaftor; ppFEV1= percent predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 second; Tx= treatment

Source: correspondence provided by sponsor, 1 April 2021. Information regarding footnotes in figure not provided.

Comparative effectiveness

* 1. A summary of the results of the change in ppFEV1 in Konstan 2017, PASS 108, Flume 2021 and Tong 2020, the studies with parallel control arms, is provided in Table 4. The mean ppFEV1 rROD based on the annualised changed in ppFEV1 ranged from 42% to >100%. The Tong 2020 study is difficult to interpret because the sample size is small and only patients with ppFEV1 <40% were included.

**Table 4: Change in ppFEV1 in the Konstan 2017, PASS 108, Flume 2021 and Tong 2020 studies**

|  | **Konstan 2017** | **PASS 108** | **Flume 2021** | **Tong 2020** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LUM/IVA** | **Control** | **LUM/IVA** | **Control** | **LUM/IVA** | **Control** | **TEZ/IVA** | **Control** | **LUM/IVA** | **Control** |
| **≥ 12y** | **≥ 12y** | **≥ 6y** | **≥ 6y** | **≥ 12y b** | **≥ 12y b** | **≥ 12y** | **≥ 12y** | **≥ 12y** | **≥ 12y** |
|  | **N=455** | **N=1,588** | **N=2,287** | **N=3,527** | **N=1,881** | **N=2,686** | **N=407** | **N=407w/****1,383a** | **N=72** | **N=33** |
| **Duration of follow up (years)** | 2.3  | 2.9  | 3.0  | 2.3 | Approx. 1  |
| **ppFEV1** |  |
| N | 455 | 1,588 | 2,072 | 3,153 | 1,776 | 2,540 | 407 | 1,383 | 72 | 33 |
| Baseline/ prior to tx, mean (sd) | 59.8 (13.8) | 61.8 (16.3) | 81.4 (19.8) | 78.4 (21.5) | 79.1 (18.1) | 74.7 (19.4) | 59.0 (14.5) | 59.4 (9.3) | 37.4 (11.3) | 34.3 (8.5) |
| **ppFEV1: Absolute change** |  |
| N | NR | NR | 2,046 | 3,114 | 1,754 | 2,508 | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| Mean (sd) [95% CI] | NR | NR | -3.73 (10.1)[-4.2, -3.3] | -6.85 (11.3)[-7.2, -6.5] | -3.73 (9.9) [NR] | -7.46 (11.2)[NR] | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| **ppFEV1 slope** | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/year | %/month | %/month |
| Annualised change ppFEV1, mean (sd) (95% CI)  | -1.33 (-1.80, -0.85) | -2.29 (-2.56, -2.03) | -0.93 c | -1.71 c | -0.93 c | -1.87 *c* | -0.80 (-1.31, -0.30)  | -2.08 (-2.34, -1.82) | 0.107 (−0.074, 0.288) | −0.379 (−0.646, 0.105) |
| ppFEV1 rROD | 41.9% | 45.6%d | 50.3%e | 61.5% | >100% |

Source: Table 2.5.1 of the Commentary.

a Flume 2021: Demographics presented in Flume 2021 for the controls represents the weighted sample size of the historical control group using the inverse of the number of controls in each matched set to account for one-to-many matching used in the analysis. These are only relative values and not absolute values. This is reported in the column heading as N=407w/ 1,383.

b The PASS 108 CSR reported results in two age groups: ages ≥ 12 and <18; and age≥18. Results for patients ≥ 12 years for PASS 108 were calculated by the submission using a weighted average of the number of patients in the two age groups; Footnote of Table for PASS 108 states that Demographic data for patients aged ≥12 years were not reported in US CFFR IA3 tables. These were obtained by ad hoc data request, Obj3\_Table 1.0 and 1.1, dated 25/09/2020, Data on File. Some data could not be verified during the evaluation.

c Submission calculation (annualised change from 2014 to 2018: LUMA/IVA, -3.73 / 4 (years) = -0.93; Control, -7.46 / 4 (years) = -1.87. During the evaluation similar calculations were applied to the subgroup of patients aged ≥ 6 years: LUMA/IVA, -3.73 / 4 years = -0.93, Control, -6.85 / 4 years = -1.71.

d Calculated during evaluation:(-1.71--0.93)/-1.71)

e Reported in submission as 50.1%; corrected during evaluation to 50.3% (calculation: [-1.87/-0.93]/-1.87))

Abbreviations: CI=confidence interval; N=number; p=probability; LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; ppFEV1=percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second; sd=standard deviation; rROD=relative rate of decline; TEZA/IVA=tezacaftor/ivacaftor

* 1. The PSCR provided data from additional follow up of the PASS 108 study (Table 5 and 6). Patients aged ≥6 years experienced a rROD ppFEV1 of 45.8% on lumacaftor/ ivacaftor (based on mean 3.7 years treatment) and patients aged ≥12 years experienced a rROD ppFEV1 of 47.3% on lumacaftor/ivacaftor (based on mean 3.8 years treatment).

Table 5: PASS 108 Disease Progression Cohorts through Q3 2019: Patient characteristics & exposure duration

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Comparator****(≥6-year-old)N=3,137** | **LUM/IVA****(≥6-year-old)N=1,498** | **Comparator****(≥12-year-old)N=2,327** | **LUM/IVA****(≥12-year-old)N=1,198** |
| Age in 2019, mean (sd) | 23.2 (10.8) | 22.3 (9.5) | 27.1 (9.9) | 25.0 (8.9) |
| Gender, male n (%) | 1,655 (52.8) | 952 (63.6) | 1,253 (53.8) | 787 (65.7) |
| LUM/IVA exposure group: |  |  |  |  |
| <1 year | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 |
|  ≥1-<2 years |  | 0 |  | 0 |
|  ≥2-<3 years |  | 273 (18.2) |  | 45 (3.8) |
|  ≥3-<4 years |  | 722 (48.2) |  | 654 (54.6) |
|  ≥4 years |  | 503 (33.6) |  | 499 (41.7) |
| Median exposure, years |  | 3.8 |  | 3.9 |
| Mean exposure, years (sd) |  | 3.7 (0.5) |  | 3.8 (0.4) |
| Range exposure, years |  | 2.5 – 4.7 |  | 2.6 – 4.7 |

Source: Table 3, PSCR

Abbreviations: LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; sd=standard deviation;

Table 6: PASS 108 Disease Progression Cohorts through Q3 2019: Change in ppFEV1 from baseline

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Comparator****(≥6-year-old)N=3,137** | **LUM/IVA****(≥6-year-old)N=1,498** | **Comparator****(≥12-year-old)N=2,327** | **LUM/IVA****(≥12-year-old)N=1,198** |
| Pre-study baseline (2014), ppFEV1, %: |  |  |  |  |
| n | 2,791 | 1,336 | 2,202 | 1,128 |
| Mean (sd) | 80.24 (20.80) | 83.42 (19.27) | 76.47 (20.59) | 81.16 (19.43) |
| Change from baseline to Q3 2019, ppFEV1, %: |  |  |  |  |
| n | 2,746 | 1,319 | 2,167 | 1,114 |
| Mean (sd) | -7.21 (12.62) | -3.91 (10.47) | -7.73 (12.80) | -4.07 (10.23) |
| Annualised change (2014 to Q3 2019), ppFEV1, %/yeara | -1.52 | -0.82 | -1.63 | -0.86 |
| % reduction in ppFEV1 ROD (2014 to Q3 2019) | 45.8% | 47.3% |

Source: Table 4, PSCR. a Change from baseline divided by 4.75 years to reflect data through to Q3

Abbreviations: LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; ppFEV1=percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second; sd=standard deviation; ROD=rate of decline;

* 1. In response to a question from the PBAC (see paragraph 4.2), the sponsor provided additional analyses of the PASS 108 study which estimated the annual change in ppFEV1 with lumacaftor/ivacaftor over a later time window in order to exclude the initial improvement in ppFEV1 (data from 2016 to Q3 2019 used in the analysis; all patients commenced treatment in 2015). The sponsor concluded that the annual change in ppFEV1 is remarkably constant over time. The PBAC noted, as expected, the annual change increases when the initial treatment period is excluded (from -0.86 [Table 6] to -0.99 per year for the cohort aged ≥12 years; from -0.82 [Table 6] to -0.91 per year for the cohort aged ≥6 years). The sponsor reported the rROD as 47.0% for the cohort aged ≥12 years and 51.3% and for the cohort ≥6 years. The PBAC noted the rROD was potentially overestimated as it was based on an annual change of -1.87 for the control group rather than the rates reported using the data from the Q3 2019 cohort (-1.63 and -1.52, Table 6).
	2. The pre-PBAC response provided longer-term follow-up for patients completing the PROGRESS study (in 2015) by identifying these patients in the US CFFPR. A total of 256 patients receiving lumacaftor/ivacaftor in 2016 provided consent for additional data collection, of whom 202 continued to receive lumacaftor/ivacaftor over the following three years (through 2018). The ROD in ppFEV1 was estimated to be 0.95% per year, which was noted to be lower than the ROD of 2.29% per year reported in the Konstan for the control group. The PBAC noted this was from an enriched population of continuers and one of the reasons patients may discontinue treatment is because they were not doing well on lumacaftor/ivacaftor.
	3. The estimated ppFEV1 rROD across the remaining studies was 56% to >100% (Table 7). The PBAC noted the initial increase in ppFEV1 in treated patients across the studies appeared small, ranging from 0.2% to 3.8% in the first year of treatment, compared to the 2.8% (2 to 11 years of age)/ 3.0% (≥ 12 years of age) increase in the first 24 weeks previously considered by the PBAC.

**Table 7: Change in ppFEV1 in the remaining studies**

|  | **Bourgani 2019**  | **Mermis 2019d**  | **Muilwijk 2020**  | **Collet 2018** | **Ejiofor 2020** | **King 2021** | **Loukou 2020** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **LUMA/IVA** | **L/I & T/I** | **LUMA/IVA** | **LUMA/IVA** | **LUMA/IVA** | **LUMA/IVA** | **LUMA/ IVA** |
|  | **N=46** | **N=85** | **N=70** | **N=30** | **N=21** | **N=24** | **N=40** |
| **ppFEV1** |
| Baselinea, mean  | 61.0  | 64.9  | 60.2b | 85.1  | 38.7 (median) | 34.7  |  |
| Change, mean | Yr 1: +0.2%Yr 2: +4.3% | NR | Yr 3: +1.7% | Yr 1: +3.5% | 6 mo: +5.8%Yr 1: +3.8% | Yr 1: +1.45% | Yr 1: +1.2% |
| **ppFEV1 slope** | Mean%/year | Mean L/yeard | Mean%/year | NR%/year | Median %/year | Mean%/year | Mean%/year |
| Pre-CFTR modulator | -4.2  | -0.068  | -1.80 | -2.2 | -2.6  | -2.10 | -0.99 |
| Post-CFTR modulator | +1.2 | -0.030  | -0.80 | +4.6  | +2.1 | +1.45  | +3.38  |
| **ppFEV1 rRODe** | >100%  | 55.9% | 55.6% | >100% | >100% | >100% | >100%  |

Source: Table 10 p21, Table 11 p21, Table15 p27, Table 16 p28, Table 19 p30, Table 20 p31, Table 21 p31, Table 24 p33, Table 25 p33, Table 26 p34, Table 27 p35, Table 31 p38, Table 32 p38, Table 33 p39, Table 34 p39, Table 35 p40, Table 36 p40 of the submission;

Attachment 7 Pooled ppFEV1 rROD;

a Reported baseline assumed to be immediately before prior to treatment unless otherwise stated.

b Muilwijk 2020; reported as the baseline for the control i.e., mean ppFEV1 at beginning of five-year pre-initiation period. Prior to treatment mean baseline ppFEV1 was 50.0 (2.3).

d Mermis 2019: Absolute FEV1 (litres/min) reported rather than ppFEV1.

e It is not mathematically correct to calculate % reduction if slopes differ in direction. Reported as >100%.

Abbreviations: CFTR= Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator; CI=confidence interval; IQR= Interquartile range; LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; N=number; p=probability; ppFEV1=percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second; rROD=relative rate of decline; sd=standard deviation.

* 1. The PBAC noted for the studies which compared patients prior to and after treatment, the benefit from treatment is likely to be overestimated due to ‘regression to the mean’, i.e., reductions in ppFEV1 may have influenced the decision to commence treatment and thus the decline in ppFEV1 prior to treatment is likely to be larger than on average.
	2. The rate of pulmonary exacerbations and use of intravenous antibiotics among patients receiving treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor was consistently lower across all studies reporting these outcomes.
	3. In the analysis of patients from the ACFDR aged 12 years and over (N=126) provided in the submission, the weighted average annual change in ppFEV1 in the year prior to treatment with a CFTR modulator was -1.91 , and after approximately 15 months of treatment was +2.39. The estimated mean ppFEV1 rROD after approximately 15 months of treatment was >100%. Results are representative of 12% of patients registered on the ACFDR who have received treatment with a CFTR modulator, with a ppFEV1 between 40% and 90%. The pre-PBAC response stated most patients (281/562, 56.7%) were ineligible for inclusion as they did not meet the criteria defined a priori essential to perform the rROD analyses (i.e., ≥10 months since initiation measurement, baseline ppFEV1 measure available, ≥3 ppFEV1 measures in either period). The pre-PBAC response provided an additional analysis of the ACFDR data that did not restrict patients based on baseline ppFEV1 (Table 8).The PBAC noted the annual change in ppFEV1 per year in the first 15 months of treatment was +1.31%.

**Table 8: ACFDR analysis provided in submission and updated analysis provided in pre-PBAC response**

|  | Analysis provided in submission (ppFEV1 40-90), n=126 | Revised analyses provided in pre-PBAC response(any ppFEV1), n=179 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Male, n (%)  | 54 (63) | 113 (63) |
| Age, years (mean, SD) | 25.9 (9.0) | 24.8 (8.8) |
| ppFEV1, % (mean, SD) | 69.1 (13.6) | 75.0 (20.2) |
| Duration CFTR modulator use from initiation, months (mean, SD) | 20.2 (2.0) | 20.2 (1.9) |
| Duration of on-CFTR modulator analysesa, months (mean, SD) | 14.6 (3.3) | 14.6 (3.3) |
| pre-CFTR modulator weighted average annual change in ppFEV1 | -1.91%/year | -1.10%/year |
| on-CFTR modulator weighted average annual change in ppFEV1 | +2.39%/year | +1.31%/year |
| ppFEV1 rROD | **>100%b** | **>100%b** |

CFTR=Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator; ppFEV1 =percent predicted forced expiratory volume in one second rROD =relative rate of decline; S=standard deviation

a To patient’s last ppFEV1 measure used in analyses (truncated by COVID).

b It is not mathematically correct to calculate % reduction if slopes differ in direction

Pooled analysis

* 1. The submission’s pooled point estimate of the relative rate of decline in lung function (rROD ppFEV1) for lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared to BSC was 55.7% based on five studies (PASS 108, Flume 2021, Bourgani 2019, Mermis 2019, Muilwijk 2020) that included patients that had been treated for more than two years. As discussed in paragraph 4.12, the ESC did not consider pooling of the data appropriate.

Studies where lumacaftor/ivacaftor were initiated from ages 6 to 11 years

* 1. For patients aged 6-11 years initiating treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor; the absolute change in ppFEV1 from baseline to 12 months was not significant in Study 129 (-0.9%; 95%CI -2.1, 0.3), or in patients who transitioned from placebo to lumacaftor/ivacaftor treatment in Study 110 (0.0; 95%CI -2.7, 2.7); whereas a small change was observed in patients who received lumacaftor/ivacaftor in the parent study and in Study 110 (i.e., from the baseline of the parent study to week 96 of Study 110; approximately 120 weeks) (+3.1%; 95%CI, 1.0, 5.1). The PSCR stated the results from Study 129 are interim results as the duration of local follow-up is currently limited given the later access to lumacaftor/ivacaftor in Australia relative to the US. The PSCR stated Study 129 was designed to meet TGA requirements with reporting only after 5 years (an interim report was not requested by the TGA).
	2. In Study 110, of the patients who transitioned from placebo to lumacaftor/ivacaftor, 31 (32.3%) had experienced at least one pulmonary exacerbation event; of the patients that received lumacaftor/ivacaftor in the Study 109 and in Study 110, 51 (49.5%) had experienced at least one pulmonary exacerbation. Few of the pulmonary exacerbation events in Study 110 required hospitalisation or antibiotic treatment. In Study 129, a pulmonary exacerbation event was defined as any episode requiring home IV or hospitalisation with respiratory symptoms; the number of pulmonary exacerbation events per patient per year was 0.4 (standard deviation, 0.9).

Comparative harms

* 1. Safety outcomes were presented for Study 110 and PASS 108 pertaining to children who initiate lumacaftor/ivacaftor between the ages of 6 to 11 years (see Table 9).

**Table 9: Summary of key adverse events in Study 110**

|  | OverallN=239 |
| --- | --- |
| Any AEs, n (%) | 236 (98.7) |
| Mild  | 48 (20.5) |
| Moderate  | 148 (61.9) |
| Severe  | 39 (16.3) |
| AEs leading to treatment discontinuation | 9 (3.8) |
| Serious AEs | 72 (30.1) |
| Infective PEx of CF | 49 (20.5) |
| Pulmonary function test decreased | 4 (1.7) |
| Constipation  | 4 (1.7) |
| AEs leading to death  | 0 |
| AEs With an Incidence of At Least 10% of patients  |  |
| Cough  | 155 (64.9) |
| Infective PEx of CF | 118 (49.4) |
| Pyrexia | 72 (30.1) |
| Nasal congestion | 55 (23.0) |
| Headache  | 55 (23.0) |
| Oropharyngeal pain | 50 (20.9) |

Source: pp49 p60, Table 50 p63 of the submission; Table 12-2 p107, Table 12-3 p109, Table 12-7 p 122 Attachment 4 Study 110 CSR,

Abbreviations: AE=adverse event; CF=cystic fibrosis; PEx=pulmonary exacerbations

* 1. A summary of the safety outcomes for lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared with patients in the comparator arm in PASS 108 is presented in Table 9. These data do not suggest any new or unexpected harms associated with longer-term treatment. The PSCR noted the highly patient-relevant treatment benefits clearly demonstrated by these data i.e., a 56% reduction in deaths.
	2. The PBAC noted the age-adjusted odds ratio for the reduction in pulmonary exacerbations in the PASS 108 study was 0.70 which suggested a smaller treatment effect than that previously applied in the economic model that informed the recommendation to list lumacaftor/ivacaftor for CF patients over 12 years (RR 0.44, 56% reduction in risk).

**Table 10: Safety outcomes: PASS 108, safety cohorts, 2018**

| Outcomea | LUMA/IVA safety cohort, 2018 (all ages)N=4,628 | Comparator safety cohort, 2018 (all ages)N=5,666 | RR (95%CI), unadjusted | OR (95%CI), Age-adjustedb |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| n | Risk (%) | n | Risk (%) |
| Deaths | 30 | 0.7 | 84 | 1.5 | 0.44 (0.29, 0.66) | 0.61 (0.40, 0.94) |
| Organ transplantations | 25 | 0.5 | 84 | 1.5 | 0.36 (0.23, 0.57) | 0.47 (0.30, 0.74) |
| Hospitalisations (any reason)  | 1561 | 33.7 | 2484 | 43.8 | 0.77 (0.73, 0.81) | 0.68 (0.63, 0.74) |
| Pulmonary exacerbation | 1470 | 31.8 | 2368 | 41.8 | 0.76 (0.72, 0.80) | 0.70 (0.65, 0.77) |
| Complications | 3,894 | 84.1 | 4,925 | 86.9 | 0.97 (0.95, 0.98) | 1.04 (0.93, 1.17) |

Source: Table 51 p63 of the submission; Table 7 p28 Attachment 1a PASS 108 CSR;

a The at-risk population was based on patients with non-missing information

b Adjusted for age in years (continuous) on January 1, 2018

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; n = number of participants reporting data; LUMA/IVA=lumacaftor/ivacaftor; N = total participants in group; OR = odds ratio; RR = relative risk

Clinical claim

* 1. The submission claimed that all available evidence supported the ppFEV1 rROD exceeding 42% over time for patients treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared to BSC.
	2. The evaluation considered the therapeutic conclusion presented in the submission may not be adequately supported by the evidence for the following reasons:
* The individual studies included in the submission were subject to moderate to critical biases.
* Evidence from most of the studies was less informative than the analysis presented in Konstan 2017 included in the original PBAC submission. The mean duration of follow up for Konstan 2017 and Flume 2021 was approximately 2.3 years, for PASS 108 was 3.8 years, for Muilwijk 2020 was 2.4 years and the follow up for the other studies was less than 2 years.
	1. The evaluation considered the ACFDR analysis provided in the submission was from a limited population of patients aged 12 years and older with a baseline ppFEV1 between 40% to 90%, which was only approximately 12% of patients that have received lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor in Australia. The analysis from the ACFDR was not considered reflective of the totality of the use of lumacaftor/ivacaftor on the PBS as recorded by the ACFDR.
	2. The submission claimed that the longer-term data from Study 110, Study 129 and PASS 108 provided evidence that the efficacy and safety of treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor is maintained into the longer-term for up to 4 years for patients with CF aged from 6 to 11 years*.* The evaluation considered this claim may not be supported by the evidence presented for the following reasons:
* Study 110 and Study 129 were non-comparative, and subject to considerable bias; the effectiveness and safety estimates are subject to considerable uncertainty.
* Analyses from Study 129 were based on data collected from the ACFDR for a select and potentially non-representative sample of all treated patients. Results presented were based on 179 patients, with one year of follow-up; as such, these data may be premature and no longer-term follow-up is available.
	1. Overall, the PBAC considered the data presented did not adequately support the claim that ppFEV1 rROD exceeded 42% over time for patients treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared to BSC.

Economic analysis

* 1. The economic evaluation presented was a cost-utility analysis (CUA). The structure of the model was the same as in the previous (re)submissions (March 2016, November 2016, July 2017, July 2018, July 2019), which presented a CUA of lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared with BSC.
	2. Based on the pooled estimate of ppFEV1 rROD from five studies (paragraph 4.19), the submission revised the estimate informing the ppFEV1 rROD from 42% to 55.7%. The resulting ICER as presented in the submission decreased from $155,000 to < $255,000/QALY gained to $115,000 to < $135,000/QALY gained based on the revised estimate*.* The PBAC noted the economic model required an estimate of the rROD from week 24 onwards. The PBAC noted the initial increase in ppFEV1 was not excluded when estimating the rROD for four of the five studies included in the pooled estimate and thus considered the rROD was overestimated and the ICER was underestimated.

Financial Management – Risk Sharing Arrangements

* 1. The submission concluded that in light of its estimate of the rROD at 55.7%, it was appropriate that Option 1 of the Deed be enacted. The PBAC considered that data to reliably inform the rROD beyond 24 weeks was not provided by the submission and hence there was not a basis on which to enact Option 1 of the Deed.

*For more detail on PBAC’s view, see section 5 PBAC outcome.*

1. PBAC Outcome
	1. The PBAC advised the data provided by the sponsor did not meet the requirements of the Deed, and that the long-term benefits of lumacaftor/ivacaftor, in terms of the relative rate of decline in ppFEV1 and the rate of pulmonary exacerbations, remained uncertain. The PBAC considered additional analyses would be required to meet the requirements of the Deed.
	2. The PBAC recalled the economic model that informed the recommendation to list lumacaftor/ivacaftor for CF patients over 6 years of age assumed an average change in ppFEV1 of +3.0% in the first 24 weeks of treatment followed by a relative rate of decline (rROD) of 42% compared to best supportive care (based on Konstan 2017) for the duration of the model. The PBAC noted the rROD calculation was based on a rate of decline of 1.33% per year for treated patients and 2.29% per year for BSC patients. The PBAC noted that the assumption of the rate of decline in ppFEV1 with treatment (1.33%/year) being less than for best supportive care (2.29%/year) resulted in progressively larger absolute (i.e., arithmetic) differences in ppFEV1 for the two treatment groups over the model duration (see Figure 1 for the impact over 2 years). The model also assumed a 56% reduction in annual rate of pulmonary exacerbations requiring IV antibiotics or inpatient stays over the modelled time horizon (paragraph 6.57, lumacaftor/ivacaftor PSD, July 2018 PBAC meeting).
	3. The PBAC noted Flume 2021 was the only additional study which appropriately excluded the first 3 weeks of treatment with CFTR modulator treatment to ensure the initial increase in ppFEV1 was not included in the rate of decline calculation (i.e. the slope of the line as presented in Figure 1 for Konstan 2017). The PBAC noted Konstan 2017 and Flume 2021 compared patients previously enrolled and treated in clinical trials versus untreated external controls. Despite propensity matching, the PBAC considered these studies are at risk of residual confounding due to differences between those selected and willing for trial participation versus those who are not, as well as potential differences in care among study participants vs non-participants.
	4. The PBAC noted for the remaining studies which did not exclude the initial increase in ppFEV1, the rate of decline with treatment was underestimated and hence the rROD was overestimated. Based on the original model assumptions (3% increase in ppFEV1 with lumacaftor/ivacaftor followed by annual decline in ppFEV1 of 1.33%), the ppFEV1 will not decline to the baseline (prior to treatment) value until after more than 2 years of treatment (initial increase 3%, end year 1 vs baseline: 1.67% increase [3.0-1.33], end year 2 vs baseline: 0.34% increase [1.67-1.33]). Thus for studies with a follow-up of less than 2 years, there should be an overall improvement in ppFEV1 with treatment versus baseline, and the rROD should be >100%.
	5. The PBAC noted that a total of 11 studies were included in the submission of which only three (Flume 2021, Muilwijk 2020 and PASS 108) provided data over more than 2 years of follow-up. The PBAC further noted that 5 studies were either available in abstract form only or provided limited information regarding study methodology. The PBAC considered the risk of confounding was exacerbated in all studies by only including patients who remained on treatment for the follow-up period (i.e. continuers), as it is not possible to identify the patients equivalent to the ‘continuers’ in the control group. The PBAC noted if continuers have a better baseline disease trajectory than patients who discontinue treatment, any benefit of treatment will be over-estimated. The PBAC considered all studies were subject to significant limitations.
	6. The PBAC noted that only the PASS 108 study provided data over a longer follow-up period than Konstan 2017 and hence potentially informed the medium term effect of lumacaftor/ivacaftor. The PBAC noted the limitations of the PASS 108 study included the assumption that treated homozygous and untreated heterozygous F508del patients are exchangeable and the high proportion of patients excluded from the lumacaftor/ivacaftor cohort, including one-third of patients who switched treatment to another CFTR modulator, mainly tezacaftor/ivacaftor (paragraph 4.14). The PBAC noted that if the baseline disease trajectory is better in the included versus excluded patients, the benefit of lumacaftor/ivacaftor treatment will have been overestimated, and overall considered the results did not reduce uncertainty in the long-term rROD in the economic model.
	7. The PBAC noted that, based on the PASS 108 study, the change from baseline in ppFEV1 was -3.9% for patients over 6 years of age treated with lumacaftor/ivacaftor compared to -7.2% for patients who were not treated over 4.75 years. The PBAC noted based on the economic model that a 7-8% difference in ppFEV1 would be expected across the treatment groups at 4.75 years. However, the observed difference in the PASS 108 study was 3.3% (7.2%-3.9%).The PBAC noted the data from PASS 108 were inconsistent with an initial increase in ppFEV1 of 3.0% as well as a reduction in the rate of decline beyond the initial increase of <42%. The PBAC noted if the initial increase in ppFEV1 was 3% over 24 weeks as assumed in the economic model, the rROD after 24 weeks of therapy would be substantially less than the 45.8% reported in the submission.
	8. The PBAC noted the reduction in pulmonary exacerbations observed in the PASS 108 study (adjusted odds ratio of 0.70) was less than the reduction assumed in the original economic model that informed the cost effectiveness of lumacaftor/ivacaftor (relative risk of 0.44).
	9. The PBAC noted the economic model provided with the submission assumed a relative rate of decline of ppFEV1 of 55.7% after the initial 24 weeks of treatment based on a pooled estimate from 5 studies. The PBAC noted four of the five studies included the initial increase in ppFEV1 in the slope estimation for the rate of decline calculation which is inconsistent with the structure of the economic model (which modelled the initial increase separately) and likely to overestimate the relative rate of decline.
	10. The PBAC considered the analysis of the ACFDR data provided weak evidence of an initial increase in ppFEV1 but not a sustained reduction in rate of decline over time. The PBAC noted the annual change in ppFEV1 per year in the first 15 months of treatment was +1.31%.
	11. The PBAC acknowledged that, as anticipated (paragraph 6.78, lumacaftor/ivacaftor PSD, July 2018 PBAC meeting), providing data with longer follow up may be limited by the availability of new CFTR modulators. However, the PBAC considered it may have been appropriate to explore using longer term data from the US CFFPR for patients treated continuously with lumacaftor/ivacaftor and tezacaftor/ivacaftor through consecutive periods of treatment, especially given that tezacaftor/ivacaftor was recommended on a cost-minimisation basis versus lumacaftor/ivacaftor.
	12. The PBAC considered the assumption that treatment with lumacaftor/ivacaftor or tezacaftor/ivacaftor provided a relative rate of decline in ppFEV1 of 42% compared to BSC was sustained in the long term has not been adequately substantiated, based on the data provided by the sponsor to date.
	13. The PBAC advised that in accordance with the Deed the sponsor should provide evidence and data that there is a sustained reduction in the rate of decline in ppFEV1 for up to four years (excluding any initial improvement in ppFEV1). The PBAC considered that, at a minimum, the following information pertaining to the PASS 108 study should be provided in the resubmission:
* The ROD and rROD for the Year 3 Orkambi Disease Progression Cohort (n=2,287) and the Comparator Disease Progression Cohort (n=3,527) for the time periods (i) 0 to 6 months; (ii) 6 months to 2 years and (iii) 2 years to the maximum follow up available. The PBAC acknowledged the sponsor’s statement that it was problematic to determine the exact magnitude of the acute ppFEV1 change in the first month of treatment using registry data (paragraph 4.2); however, this analysis will provide an indication of the interval-specific time trends in ppFEV1.
* Results for ROD and rROD should be presented for patients who started on lumacaftor/ivacaftor and then switched to tezacaftor/ivacaftor and to any alternative CFTR modulators. For completeness, a similar analysis should be provided for patients who discontinued lumacaftor/ivacaftor but did not switch to other CFTR modulators.
* A comparison of baseline characteristics for patients in the Year 1 Orkambi Disease Progression Cohort (n=5,508) who are excluded from the Year 3 Orkambi Disease Progression Cohort because they (i) switched to alternative CFTR modulators or (ii) were lost to follow up or discontinued lumacaftor/ivacaftor for reasons other than switching.
* Any updated PASS 108 analyses. The PBAC noted interim analysis 4 and the final report were planned for 2020 and 2021, respectively. The PBAC noted elexacaftor/ivacaftor/tezacaftor became available in the US in October 2019 but considered it unlikely all patients would immediately switch treatment and data with further follow up for lumacaftor/ivacaftor should be available. The analyses above should also be provided using the updated data.
	1. The PBAC advised a resubmission should be provided for consideration at the December 2021 PBAC meeting, and that this would require the submission to be lodged by 15 September.
	2. The PBAC noted that the evidence provided did not meet the requirements of the Deed and did not enable it to advise the Minister as to the point estimate for the rate of decline in lung function. The PBAC considered that the data provided did not justify the application of the subsidisation caps identified as Option 1 in the Deed.

**Outcome:**

Advice provided

1. Context for Decision

The PBAC helps decide whether and, if so, how medicines should be subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in Australia. It considers applications regarding the listing of medicines on the PBS and provides advice about other matters relating to the operation of the PBS in this context. A PBAC decision in relation to PBS listings does not necessarily represent a final PBAC view about the merits of the medicine or the circumstances in which it should be made available through the PBS. The PBAC welcomes applications containing new information at any time.

1. Sponsor’s Comment

Vertex is disappointed that the PBAC is calling into question the data provided demonstrating the long-term benefit of Orkambi® and Symdeko®. The long-term benefit of these medicines is well proven as evidenced by independent and Vertex clinical trial data and the support from the 29 other international healthcare systems where patients have ongoing access to these medicines.

We continue to work with the PBAC and the Department of Health to ensure they have all the data they need to confirm the long-term benefit of these currently funded medicines.