



Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 3 – 4 October 2024

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 112th meeting on 3 – 4 October 2024.

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.

The PBAC is also committed to understanding consumer perspectives and integrating them into consideration of medicines and vaccines. Consumers are able to provide their views about medicine utilisation reviews to the PBAC [via the Office of Health Technology Assessment \(OHTA\) consultation hub](#).

Submissions to the PBAC

DUSC noted that 7 category 1, 25 category 2, and 5 standard re-entry and 2 early re-entry submissions had been received for the November 2024 meeting of PBAC. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns. The agenda for the November 2024 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 and 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.

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in October 2024:

Dasatinib and nilotinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of dasatinib and nilotinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia following a reduction in restriction levels to Authority Required (Telephone) for initial treatment and Authority Required (STREAMLINED) for first and subsequent continuing treatment. The utilisation of nilotinib and dasatinib had remained at a similar level following the implementation of the restriction changes in March 2022 relative to utilisation prior to the change.

Idelalisib for refractory follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of idelalisib for refractory follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma following amendments to the PBS Authority Required listing in January 2022. Since the change in restriction there had been no significant change in the number of patients being treated nor the pattern or safety of treatment with idelalisib for refractory follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Molnupiravir for SARS-CoV-2 infection

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of molnupiravir for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (COVID-19) infection. In 2022, 448,358 patients were supplied 466,598 molnupiravir prescriptions. In 2023, 226,760 patients were supplied 356,307 molnupiravir prescriptions. Most patients who were treated with molnupiravir were aged 70 years and older. Since PBS listing, molnupiravir had accounted for a greater proportion of the COVID-19 oral antiviral market.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC for consideration.

Upcoming Utilisation Analysis of PBS Listed Medicines

Utilisation of the following medicines was selected for consideration at future DUSC meetings.

Analysis of single or multiple medicines in a treatment area

- Elexacaftor+tezacaftor+ivacaftor(&)ivacaftor for cystic fibrosis.
- Fluticasone furoate+umeclidinium+vilanterol for severe asthma.
- Imatinib, ripretinib and sunitinib for gastrointestinal stromal tumour.
- Prescriber Bag listings.
- Zanubrutinib for Waldenstrom macroglobulinaemia.

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

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Chair
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee