



Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 2 June – 3 June 2022

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 105th meeting on the 2nd June – 3rd June 2022.

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 a [web interface](#).

Submissions to the PBAC

DUSC noted that ten category 1, 17 category 2, three standard re-entry, two early-resolution, and three early re-entry submissions had been received for the July 2022 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 July 2022 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.

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in June 2022:

Teduglutide for Type III (chronic) intestinal failure associated with short bowel syndrome (SBS)

DUSC reviewed the use of teduglutide for the treatment of SBS. In the first year of listing, 24 patients were dispensed 215 prescriptions. In the second year of listing, 33 patients were dispensed 277 prescriptions. Overall utilisation of teduglutide was lower than estimated. DUSC noted advice from Parenteral Nutrition Down Under that there was a need to increase awareness about the availability of teduglutide to clinicians and patients.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

PBS-listed proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicines used in the management of gastrointestinal acid related disorders

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of PBS-listed proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicines used in the management of gastrointestinal acid related disorders following Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing changes in May 2019 and March 2021. In 2017 there were 611,154

initiating patients on PPI medication and in 2020 there were 494,347 initiating patients on PPI medication. In 2017 there were 145,903 (24%) patients starting on a high dose of PPI medication. However, in 2020 there were 8,026 (2%) initiating patients on high dose of PPI. For initiators in 2017, 20,309 (3%) patients went from a standard dose to high dose medication and in 2020 there was 5,896 (1%) patients starting on standard dose who transitioned to a high dose. The Defined Daily Doses (DDDs) analysis showed that there was a reduction in the DDDs for high dose listings. The overall DDDs for all PPIs showed there was an overall reduction in DDDs following the restriction changes. Even though total script utilisation (across all drugs) increased after the May 2019 restriction changes, the total number of DDDs decreased indicating that patients were moving to lower dose PPIs. DUSC considered further investigation was warranted at a later time as total DDDs appeared to be on an upward trend based on more recent data and over-the-counter (OTC) and private prescription data were not included in the analysis.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

Upcoming Utilisation Analysis of PBS Listed Medicines

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

Predicted versus Actual Utilisation Analysis

- Atezolizumab for small-cell lung cancer

Analysis of single or multiple medicines in a treatment area

- Durvalumab for stage III non-small-cell lung cancer and market review
- Nivolumab for adjuvant melanoma and melanoma market review

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