



Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 1 – 2 June 2023

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 108th meeting on the 1 – 2 June 2023.

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 six category 1, 17 category 2, and seven standard re-entry and four early re-entry submissions had been received for the July 2023 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 2023 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 June 2023:

Olaparib for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of olaparib for ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer. In 2022, 598 patients were supplied 4,864 olaparib prescriptions. In 2021, 543 patients were supplied 4,363 olaparib prescriptions. In 2021 and 2022, there was a greater proportion of olaparib patients with prescriptions supplied under the second-line listing compared to first-line listing. The median age of patients initiating treatment with olaparib was 63 years old. The median age of initiating patients to first- and second- line listings was similar.

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

Omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) since it was listed on the PBS on 1 September 2017. The actual amount of omalizumab prescribed for CSU varied from that anticipated. Since listing, omalizumab had a steady increase in utilisation with between 350 and 400 newly initiating patients per quarter and a prevalent patient population that had not plateaued. The majority of patients initiated and remained on the

300 mg dose with the average dose for both initiating and continuing patients increasing year on year, with patients remaining on treatment for longer than 36 weeks.

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

- Dupilumab for chronic severe atopic dermatitis.
- Venetoclax for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma.
- Apremilast for severe chronic plaque psoriasis.
- Medicines for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), including an analysis of patients who are diagnosed after the age of 18 years.

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