



Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 29th September - 30th September 2022

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 106th meeting on the 29th September – 30th September 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 six category 1, 14 category 2, six standard re-entry, two early-resolution, and five early re-entry submissions had been received for the November 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 November 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 September 2022:

Atezolizumab for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer

DUSC reviewed the predicted and actual utilisation of atezolizumab for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer since its listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). In the first year of listing there were 961 prevalent patients followed by 1,209 in the second year. The number of prescriptions for both years was similar at approximately 8,800 each year. The majority of patients were prescribed the three weekly induction regimen with a small percentage of these progressing to the four weekly regimen.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

Durvalumab for non-small cell lung cancer and market review

DUSC reviewed PBS listed medicines for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). In 2021, 8,225 patients were supplied 85,606 NSCLC prescriptions. In 2021, there was a greater proportion of NSCLC patients treated with immunotherapies compared to targeted therapies. Most patients who were treated with an immunotherapy were not treated with another immunotherapy. Additionally, DUSC reviewed the use of durvalumab for the

treatment of NSCLC. In 2020, 932 patients were supplied 9,398 durvalumab prescriptions. In 2021, 1,031 patients were supplied 10,735 durvalumab prescriptions.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

Nivolumab for adjuvant melanoma and market review

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of adjuvant nivolumab for melanoma following listing on the PBS in March 2020. In the first year of listing adjuvant nivolumab was utilised by 1,311 patients while in the second year of listing adjuvant nivolumab was utilised by 1,120 patients. Patients initiating on adjuvant nivolumab ranged between 140-190 new patients per quarter. Rate of prescribing of adjuvant nivolumab was as expected with capital cities and Queensland being the primary locations.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

Upcoming Utilisation Analysis of PBS Listed Medicines

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

Predicted versus Actual Utilisation Analysis

- Evolocumab for hypercholesterolaemia

Analysis of single or multiple medicines in a treatment area

- Impact of regulatory reforms on the utilisation of opioids

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