



Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 6 February 2014

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 80th meeting on 6 February 2014.

DUSC is 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.

Submissions to the PBAC

DUSC noted that 31 major submissions had been received for the March 2014 meeting of PBAC. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for major submissions where there is high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns. The agenda for the March 2014 PBAC meeting can be found at <http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/industry/listing/elements/pbac-meetings/agenda/03-2014>

Utilisation of PBS Listed Medicines

DUSC regularly examines utilisation of PBS items when there is at least 12 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.

Full restrictions for PBS listed medicines are available in the PBS Schedule (www.pbs.gov.au)

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines/groups of medicines in February 2014:

Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib) for chronic myeloid leukaemia

The number of patients on treatment, number of prescriptions and expenditure for tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) for chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) has increased steadily over the past 12 years. DUSC considered that this reflects the improved survival of patients with CML and predicted that use of the TKIs will continue to rise steadily for at least the next 10 years.

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

DUSC recommended that the report be prepared for publication on www.pbs.gov.au

Iron chelating drugs

DUSC noted that use of desferrioxamine and deferiprone were declining, while use of deferasirox, particularly the 500mg strength, was increasing. DUSC considered that utilisation of deferasirox for myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) may be higher than expected at the time of PBS listing. Most of the patients on deferasirox treatment are over 55 years of age indicating use for MDS rather than thalassaemia due to the high level of childhood mortality from thalassaemia prior to the 1960s.

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

DUSC recommended that the report be prepared for publication on www.pbs.gov.au

Upcoming Utilisation Analysis of PBS Listed Medicines

Utilisation of the following medicines and therapeutic areas have been selected for consideration at future DUSC meetings.

Predicted versus Actual Utilisation Analysis

- Aflibercept and ranibizumab for age related macular degeneration
- Pazopanib and sunitinib for renal cell carcinoma.
- Mannitol, dornase alfa and tobramycin for cystic fibrosis
- Rivaroxaban for deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism; apixaban for prevention of venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing total knee or total hip replacement.
- Omalizumab for severe allergic asthma

Analysis of multiple medicines in a treatment area

- Ocular lubricants for dry eye syndrome
- Biological treatments (adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, ustekinumab) for chronic plaque psoriasis

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