



## Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 4 June 2020

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 99<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

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 25 major submissions had been received for the July 2020 meeting of PBAC. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the major submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns. The agenda for the July 2020 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 2020:

#### **Nivolumab for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)**

DUSC reviewed the use of nivolumab for the treatment of NSCLC. Since PBS listing, 5,331 patients were supplied nivolumab for NSCLC, and in 2019, 25,816 prescriptions of nivolumab were supplied to 2,327 patients. The utilisation of nivolumab had decreased as other immunotherapies had been PBS listed for NSCLC. The alteration of the PBS restriction to allow flat dosing from September 2019 was changing prescribing, as patients were being supplied higher doses less often.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

### **Nivolumab for renal cell carcinoma (RCC)**

The report examined the use of nivolumab for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma (RCC) in the context of the whole RCC treatment market. Second line nivolumab is the most common PBS treatment for RCC. In both Year 1 and 2 after listing there was approximately 50% more patients than predicted. However there were less prescriptions than predicted because the prescriptions per patient were approximately half that predicted. The most common treatment switch for patients who had second line RCC treatment was from nivolumab to cabozantinib. The length of treatment with PBS second line nivolumab was consistent with the predicted values derived from the pivotal clinical trial.

DUSC requested that the report be provided to the PBAC.

### **Omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU)**

DUSC reviewed the use of omalizumab for the treatment of CSU. The number of patients supplied omalizumab for CSU was more than predicted in its first two years of listing. In Year 2 of listing, a total of 2,206 patients were supplied omalizumab. The proportion of patients continuing omalizumab was less than anticipated and the number of packs per patient was lower than predicted. This may indicate a patient preference to have longer intervals between dosing and the limited usage in the PBS restriction of 12 weeks for initial scripts and 24 weeks for continuing treatment. Approximately one third of prescriptions were provided by specialities outside of those listed in the restriction.

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**

- Adrenaline auto-injectors
- Alectinib for the treatment of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)
- Ibrutinib for the treatment of relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) and relapsed or refractory small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)
- Ocrelizumab for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)
- Denosumab for osteoporosis

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

A/Professor Christopher Etherton-Beer  
Chair  
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee