

14.03a EVOLOCUMAB
Injection 420 mg in 3.5 mL single use pre-filled
cartridge,
Repatha[®],
Amgen Australia Pty Ltd

1 Purpose of Application

- 1.1 The submission provided notification that the existing evolocumab 420 mg/3.5 mL injection (cartridge presentation) is to be phased out and replaced with a modified automated mini-doser (AMD) that will shorten the injection time from 9 minutes to 5 minutes, herein referred to as the 9-minute AMD device and 5-minute AMD device respectively. No changes to the listed drug were otherwise proposed.
- 1.2 The submission stated the 5-minute AMD device will be ready for supply from [REDACTED], with a period of overlap for the discontinuation of the 9-minute AMD device.

2 Background

- 2.1 Evolocumab (140 mg/mL injection, pen presentation) was first PBS-listed in December 2016 for the treatment of homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (ho-FH). The 9-minute AMD device, which delivers a 420 mg evolocumab dose over approximately 9 minutes, was PBS-listed in November 2017 for the same indication following a positive recommendation at the July 2017 PBAC meeting.
- 2.2 The evolocumab listings were extended to include heterozygous FH (he-FH) and non-FH (in patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and additional high-risk factors) in November 2018 and May 2020 respectively.

Registration status

- 2.3 The submission stated that the 5-minute AMD device has been recommended for TGA registration with a new product name and ARTG listing:
 1. Original listing: REPATHA evolocumab (rch) 420mg /3.5mL injection solution automated mini-doser (ARTG #273084);
 2. New listing: REPATHA evolocumab (rch) 420mg /3.5mL injection solution automated mini-doser AMD (ARTG #348651).

3 Requested listing

- 3.1 The submission requested no changes to the current PBS listings of the 9-minute AMD device.

- 3.2 The Secretariat noted that the legal instruments (LIs) enacting the current PBS listings of the 9-minute AMD device did not require any amendments, given an absence of any reference to the injecting time, and advice from the Australian Digital Health Agency that the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) for the updated product’s listing description (medicinal product pack) was unchanged. The Secretariat therefore did not propose any amendments to the current PBS listings.

NO CHANGES TO THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE EXISTING PBS LISTINGS PROPOSED					
MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
EVOLOCUMAB					
evolocumab 420 mg/3.5 mL injection, 3.5 mL cartridge	11193D 11485L 11927D 11986W	1	1	5	Repatha
<i>No changes to the existing, various Restriction Summaries – not shown here for brevity</i>					

Legal Instrument Drug: Evolocumab (unchanged)

Legal Instrument Form: Injection 420 mg in 3.5 mL single use pre-filled cartridge (unchanged)

Legal Instrument Manner of Administration: Injection (unchanged)

Pharmaceutical Item: Evolocumab - Injection 420 mg in 3.5 mL single use pre-filled cartridge – Injection (*unchanged*)

4 Consideration of the evidence

Sponsor hearing

- 4.1 There was no hearing for this item.

Consumer comments

- 4.2 The PBAC noted that no consumer comments were received for this item.

Supporting evidence

- 4.3 The submission stated that there have been no changes to the drug or cartridge container with the design change.
- 4.4 The submission stated that no new clinical evidence for evolocumab was included in the TGA application for the 5-minute AMD device. The TGA clinical evaluation report summarised its findings as follows:
- “No direct evidence has been provided regarding the pharmacokinetic (PK) equivalence of the 5-minute AMD to either the current AMD or to three pens, but it seems reasonable to assume that if the same dose of evolocumab is administered then a reduction in the injection time from approximately 9 minutes

to 5 minutes will not have a clinically important effect on the PK or pharmacodynamics (PD) of evolocumab.

- There is no clear evidence to suggest that there is a difference in the injection site adverse events (AEs) between the AMD device and pen, or that the administration of the same volume of drug product over a shorter time frame with the 5-minute AMD will increase the proportion of injection site AEs.
- There is no clear evidence that there is increased leakage from the 5-minute AMD compared with the current AMD because of the reduction in injection time.”

Pricing considerations

- 4.5 The submission stated the following: “No change should be required to the PBS listing because of the changeover in the AMD device. Amgen further notes, however, that the new AMD will be available prior to the fifth anniversary of evolocumab listing and the current Strategic Agreement allows new presentations to be introduced during this period without them being defined as a ‘new brand’ for the purposes of sections 99ACB or 99ACD of the National Health Act.”
- 4.6 The Secretariat noted that, if the new presentation were to be subsidised under the existing listing, it would not be considered a ‘new brand’ for the purposes of section 99ACB of the Act.

Estimated PBS usage & financial implications

- 4.7 The submission estimated there to be no financial implications to the PBS as there was no price change proposed, and the 5-minute AMD device is expected to replace the 9-minute AMD device.

5 PBAC Outcome

- 5.1 The PBAC held no objections to the planned discontinuation of the existing evolocumab 420 mg/3.5 mL injection (cartridge presentation) and its replacement with an updated product whereby the modified automated mini-doser (AMD) will shorten the injection time from 9 minutes to 5 minutes.
- 5.2 The PBAC noted that the TGA was satisfied that the reduction in injection time:
- will not have a clinically important effect on the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of evolocumab;
 - will not increase the proportion of injection site adverse events; and
 - will not result in increased leakage.
- 5.3 The PBAC noted there have been no changes to the drug or cartridge container with the design change, and that the legal instruments enacting the current PBS listings of evolocumab 420 mg/3.5 mL injection do not require any amendments. The PBAC therefore recommended no changes to the existing evolocumab listings.

- 5.4 The PBAC noted that this submission is not eligible for an Independent Review as it received a positive recommendation.

Outcome:

Recommended

6 Recommended listing

No change to the existing listing.

7 Context for Decision

The PBAC helps decide whether and, if so, how medicines should be subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in Australia. It considers applications regarding the listing of medicines on the PBS and provides advice about other matters relating to the operation of the PBS in this context. A PBAC decision in relation to PBS listings does not necessarily represent a final PBAC view about the merits of the medicine or the circumstances in which it should be made available through the PBS. The PBAC welcomes applications containing new information at any time.

8 Sponsor's Comment

The sponsor had no comment.