

HSE Drugs Group – June 2020 Minutes

Meeting 2020.05: Tuesday 9th June, 14.00

Via videoconference

1. Draft Minutes for Consideration

The minutes of the May 2020 meeting were considered and approved.

2. Confidentiality forms

It had previously been agreed that all members (including public servants) would sign confidentiality forms (once off action).

3. Matters arising / Update on Medicines considered at previous meetings

CPU provided the members with an update in relation to items at the EMT which were previously considered by the group

4. Updates / reports from TRCs

The National Cancer Control Programme Technology Review Committee's (NCCP TRC) recommendation in relation to Atezolizumab was available for the HSE Drugs Group and considered in the discussions for this medicine.

5. Declaration of Interests / Nil Interest

No potential conflicts arose.

6. Medicines for Consideration

i. 20010 Blinatumomab for CD19 positive B-precursor ALL in first or second complete remission with minimal residual disease (MRD) \geq 0.1%

The Drugs Group (unanimously) supported reimbursement of Blinatumomab under the Oncology Drugs Management System (ODMS) for this indication. Blinatumomab is already approved under the ODMS for relapsed / refractory ALL. The eligible population (for this indication) would largely be the same cohort of patients that would be eligible for Blinatumomab in the event of relapse. Approval would see Blinatumomab used earlier in the treatment pathway and patients may confer a greater benefit from this if relapse can be prevented.

ii. 20011 Atezolizumab for 2L Urothelial Carcinoma

The Drugs Group unanimously agreed that it could support funding of Atezolizumab for 2nd line treatment of urothelial carcinoma on the basis of cost minimisation versus the already recommended immunotherapy Pembrolizumab. Atezolizumab was demonstrated to be no more expensive than Pembrolizumab.

iii. 20012 Intranasal Naloxone for Opioid Overdose

The Drugs Group unanimously recommended that intranasal Naloxone should be included under the community drug schemes for GPs designated as Level 1 and Level 2 Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) prescribers to be able to prescribe this medicine for storage and administration in the home in the event of an accidental overdose of opioids.

Within the discussion and deliberations the group recognised that drug-related mortality rates in Ireland are among the highest in the EU and welcomed the expansion of naloxone services in that context. The group were assured that HSE addiction services were supportive of this product being

available under the schemes. The overall drug budget impact presented was considered to be relatively modest.

iv. 20013 Honey Bee Venom & Wasp Venom as Allergy Immunotherapy

As the unlicensed products currently used in Irish clinical practice are being discontinued by the manufacturer the Drugs Group unanimously recommended in favour of reimbursement of these licensed versions of venom immunotherapy (VIT). Overall these preparations may be cost saving to the HSE as the anticipated number of hospital visits required for administration of VIT is less compared with the unlicensed comparator being discontinued.

7. AOB / Members Time

Members were to confirm availability for an additional meeting of the Drugs Group in July.

Appendix 1: Members Present on Microsoft Teams

Member	Title	Attendance
Prof. Áine Carroll	Chair, Medical Consultant	In attendance
Mr Shaun Flanagan	Primary Care Reimbursement Service (Assistant National Director)	In attendance
Ms Aoife Kirwan	Public Interest Member	Apologies received
Dr David Hanlon	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead Primary Care (General Practitioner)	In attendance
Ms Patricia Heckmann for Ms Fiona Bonas	Chief Pharmacist, National Cancer Control Programme for National Director of the National Cancer Control Programme (Medical Consultant)	In attendance
Dr Philip Crowley	National Director for Quality Improvement (Medical Doctor)	In attendance
Dr Valerie Walshe	Office of the Chief Financial Officer (Economist, PhD)	In attendance
Ms Joan Donegan	Office of Nursing & Midwifery Services (Director of Nursing)	In attendance
Dr Roy Browne	Mental Health Division (Consultant Psychiatrist)	In attendance
Position Vacant	Public Interest Member / Ethicist	Position Vacant
Mr Michael Power	Public Interest Member	Apologies received
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Health and Wellbeing Division (Assistant National Director – Public Health Physician)	Apologies received
Ms Angela Fitzgerald	Acute Services Division (Assistant National Director)	Apologies received
Prof Ellen Crushell	Consultant in Inherited Metabolic Disorders	In attendance
Dr Lisa Cogan	Consultant in Medicine for the Elderly, Medical Director, Royal Hospital Donnybrook	Apologies received

In attendance (non-voting):

Ms Kate Mulvenna

Mr. Michael Barry (NCPE)

Secretariat:

Ms Fiona Mulligan, Senior Pharmacist, CPU PCRS

Ms Lisa Kelly, Chief II Pharmacist, CPU PCRS

Ms Maria Daly, Chief II Pharmacist, CPU PCRS

Ms Ellen McGrath, Chief II Pharmacist, CPU PCRS