

Re: Best-Value Biological Medicines; Adalimumab

28 June 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to:

- Inform you of a number of additions to the best-value biological (BVB) medicines for adalimumab 40 mg.
- Inform you of the outcome of the evaluation process to identify BVB medicines for presentations of adalimumab 80 mg solution for injection that are available in a self-administered injection (i.e. pre-filled pen) on the High Tech Arrangement.
- Confirm that the gainshare arrangement will end on 30 June 2023.

Adalimumab 40 mg

The HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has identified two additional BVB medicines for adalimumab 40 mg; **Humira**[®] and **Hukyndra**[®]. The evaluation reports for these medicines are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

Therefore, from 1 July 2023, the MMP recommends the following BVB medicines for adalimumab 40 mg:

- Citrate-containing: **Hyrimoz**[®], **Hulio**[®]
- Citrate-free: **Amgevita**[®], **Hukyndra**[®], **Hulio**[®], **Humira**[®], **Imraldi**[®], **Yuflyma**[®].

Adalimumab 80 mg

The MMP has completed an evaluation to identify BVB medicines for presentations of adalimumab 80 mg solution for injection that are available in a self-administered injection (i.e. pre-filled pen) on the High Tech Arrangement.

The MMP recommends **Humira**[®] 80 mg pre-filled pen (PFP) and **Yuflyma**[®] 80 mg PFP as the BVB medicines for adalimumab 80 mg on the High Tech Arrangement. An evaluation report entitled *MMP Report BVB Medicine Adalimumab 80 mg June 2023* is available at www.hse.ie/mmp in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

Reimbursement of Adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg on the High Tech Arrangement

Reimbursement of adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg under the High Tech Arrangement is only supported for the BVB medicines in adult patients commencing such therapy. In addition, all patients currently in receipt of adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg should be prescribed a BVB medicine.

As of 1 July 2023, all medicinal products containing adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg in self-administered injections devices (i.e. pre-filled pen/syringe) that are available for prescribing on the High Tech Arrangement are recommended as BVB medicines for adalimumab.

Gainshare Arrangement

In recognition of the efficiencies that result from the prescribing of the BVB medicines, the gainshare arrangement was introduced in June 2019 to fund service delivery or enhancement, when consultant-led teams initiated a patient on, or switched them to a BVB medicine on the High Tech Hub. The gainshare arrangement will end on 30 June 2023. Queries in relation to the release of gainshare funds should be directed to the HSE-Primary Care Reimbursement Service High Tech Co-ordination Unit at PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for embracing the MMP recommendations in relation to the BVB medicines. The commitment of you and your team to prescribing the BVB medicines is leading to significant savings for the health service. This reduces the financial burdens on the HSE arising out of the funding of reimbursed medicines, and can assist in facilitating access to new, innovative medicines for patients.

High Tech Hub Enhancement

As communicated previously, the High Tech Hub has been enhanced to support clinical teams to identify patients who have been prescribed a particular medicine on the High Tech Hub. A search function has been added to the *My Patients* tab; this allows clinical teams to search for prescriptions generated on the High Tech Hub by INN or medicinal product within a specified timeframe.

A step-by-step guide on how to use this search function is included with this communication.

Further information on the BVB medicine initiative including information for healthcare professionals, and resources to support initiating patients on, or switching them to the BVB medicines are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled *Best-value medicines*. Please contact the MMP (mmp@hse.ie) if you have any queries in relation to the BVB medicines.

Given the significant financial challenges facing the Health Service this year, it is vital that prescribing of the BVB medicines is optimised. I would ask that you continue to support this important initiative, which helps to secure ongoing access for patients to new and innovative medicines.

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry,
National Clinical Lead,
HSE-Medicines Management Programme.