

HSE Drugs Group – May 2020 Minutes

Meeting 2020.04: Tuesday 12th May, 14.00
Via Videoconference

1. Draft Minutes for Consideration

The minutes of the March 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 previously considered.

4. Updates / reports from TRCs

No updates or reports received for consideration.

5. Declaration of Interests / Nil Interest

No potential conflicts arose.

6. Medicines for Consideration

i. 20007 Risankizumab for plaque psoriasis

The Drugs Group considered Risankizumab for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy. The Group considered the clinical and economic evidence, noting the multiple biologic comparators licensed and reimbursed for plaque psoriasis. The Drugs Group unanimously did not support reimbursement. The Group agreed that a full Health Technology Assessment should be conducted to assess the associated value of the clinical benefit of Risankizumab relative to other biologic comparators.

ii. 20008 Ustekinumab for ulcerative colitis

The Drugs Group considered Ustekinumab for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have had an inadequate response with, lost response to, or were intolerant to either conventional therapy or a biologic or have medical contraindications to such therapies. The Group reviewed the clinical and economic evidence for Ustekinumab, noting the lack of an active comparator in the UNIFI-I and UNIFI-M trials. The Drugs Group unanimously did not support reimbursement. The Group agreed that a full Health Technology Assessment should be conducted to assess the clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness of Ustekinumab compared with the current standard of care and agreed that a robust deliberation could not take place in its absence.

iii. 20008 Meropenem + Vaborbactam (Vaborem®)

The Drugs Group considered Meropenem + Vaborbactam (Vaborem®) for the treatment of infections in line with its marketing authorisation. The Group noted Meropenem + Vaborbactam was added to the WHO list of essential medicines in 2019 and that the emergence of Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacterales (CPE) in Ireland in recent years has caused concern, with a national CPE public health emergency declared in November 2017. The Group considered the clinical and economic evidence in relation to Meropenem/Vaborbactam and unanimously supported pricing approval of the medicine.

7. AOB / Members Time

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the 9th June.

Appendix 1: Members Present

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

VC: Via videoconference

In attendance (non-voting):

Professor Michael Barry (NCPE)

Ms Kate Mulvenna (KM), Head of Pharmacy Function/ CPU, PCRS

Secretariat:

Ms Maria Daly (MD), Chief II Pharmacist, CPU PCRS

Ms Lisa Kelly (LK), Chief II Pharmacist, CPU PCRS

Ms Fiona Mulligan (FM), Senior Pharmacist, CPU PCRS