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Forename Surname
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
County

Circular 39/2018

Re: Introduction of Tezacaftor / Ivacaftor (Symkevi)

Dear Pharmacist,

The purpose of this circular is to advise that Symkevi is a newly approved High Tech medicine which will be reimbursed from 1st January 2019. Like Orkambi (Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor) and Kalydeco (Ivacaftor) this is a significant investment in Cystic Fibrosis treatments for patients and requires prudent stewardship to ensure avoidable expenses are not incurred.

As with Orkambi and Kalydeco, hospitals have been requested to input prescriptions for Tezacaftor/Ivacaftor (Symkevi) directly onto the High Tech Hub ensuring the patient meets the criteria as set out for reimbursement by the HSE. All prescription claim forms generated on the hub are prefaced by 'HTH'.

Symkevi can only be dispensed by the patient's nominated pharmacy. If a patient presents with a High Tech prescription that is prefaced by 'HTH' the nominated pharmacy can access the prescription details and proceed to order. In the event that a patient presents with a hand written High Tech prescription you may have to engage with the prescriber or the High Tech Co-ordination Unit directly as this patient may not meet the criteria for reimbursement. Vertex have been informed they can only accept orders for Symkevi generated on the High Tech Hub.

In most circumstances Symkevi will be prescribed in combination with Kalydeco. Symkevi will be taken once daily in the morning and Kalydeco, when prescribed in combination, will be taken once daily in the evening. Consequently, there will also be a new drug code available for a 28 pack of Kalydeco.

Please note similar to Orkambi and Kalydeco, Symkevi can only be prescribed up to a maximum of three months in line with a reimbursement protocol. Protocols are available under the Help Tab on the High Tech Hub.

Should you have any queries relating to ordering please contact the High Tech Co-ordination Unit at PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie or alternatively on 01 8647135 Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 19:00.

The codes for the new addition to the High Tech List of Reimbursable Items are as follows:

PROPRIETARY NAME INDEX	NON-PROPRIETARY NAME	CODE
Symkevi Film Coated Tabs 100 mg. / 150 mg. 28 (A)	Tezacaftor / Ivacaftor	88845
Kalydeco Film Coated Tabs 150 mg. 28 (A)	Ivacaftor	88846

Yours faithfully

Anne Marie Hoey

Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility