

Budesonide for treating mild to moderate active ulcerative colitis

WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE SAY?

Prolonged-release budesonide is not recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for treating mild to moderate active ulcerative colitis.

WHY WAS BUDESONIDE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SUBSIDY?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Prolonged-release budesonide was not recommended for government subsidy because its clinical benefits for patients do not justify its cost compared to other treatments that are already subsidised.

IS THIS TREATMENT RIGHT FOR ME?

There are different types of treatments available for ulcerative colitis. Your doctor may recommend you take prolonged-release budesonide instead of other subsidised, more affordable drugs, because they may be unsuitable for you.

Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options. Your family can also be involved in the discussion if you wish.

Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
- How well does it work compared to other treatments?
- What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
- How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
- What happens if the treatment stops working?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment?

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WHAT IS ULCERATIVE COLITIS?

Ulcerative colitis is a long-term condition in which the lining of the large intestine becomes swollen (inflamed) and ulcers form. Symptoms such as bleeding, diarrhoea and abdominal pain can occur.

WHAT IS PROLONGED-RELEASE BUDESONIDE?

You may know prolonged-release budesonide as Cortiment MMX, a drug that belongs to a group of medicines called corticosteroids. It reduces inflammation of the large intestine and relieves symptoms.

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ACE is the national health technology assessment agency under the Ministry of Health (Singapore). It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

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