

Plain English Summary

Monoclonal antibodies for preventing migraine

What does the guidance say?

Galcanezumab 120 mg/mL pre-filled pen is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for preventing migraine in adults who meet certain criteria.

Eptinezumab, erenumab, fremanezumab and other strengths of galcanezumab are not recommended for government subsidy for this condition.

What is migraine?

Migraine is a type of severe headache that usually starts on one side of the head as a dull pain that slowly worsens to a throbbing pain. It can last for hours to days and worsens with movement or normal daily activities. Other symptoms of migraine can include nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to sound, light, and smell.

When someone has headaches for at least 15 days each month (of which 8 days are with migraine), this is called chronic migraine. People who have fewer headache days with migraine symptoms have episodic migraine.

What is galcanezumab?

Galcanezumab belongs to a group of medicines called monoclonal antibodies that stop the activity of a naturally occurring substance in the body called calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) that causes migraine headaches when it is at increased levels. It is given as an injection under the skin and can be self-administered at home. Your doctor will tell you how much you need to have and how long you need to have it for.

Who can have galcanezumab?

Adults can have galcanezumab if they have at least four migraine days a month and:

- have tried at least three migraine preventive treatments that did not improve their headaches or had side effects that could not be tolerated, or
- have a medical reason not to use these migraine preventive treatments .

Your doctor can advise if galcanezumab is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why was galcanezumab recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Galcanezumab 120 mg/mL pre-filled pen was recommended for subsidy because its benefit in preventing migraine for certain adults justifies its cost.

Eptinezumab, erenumab and fremanezumab were not recommended for subsidy because their benefits do not justify their costs compared with galcanezumab. If you need one of these drugs for preventing migraine, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

Other strengths of galcanezumab were not considered for subsidy because they have not been approved to prevent migraine.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes galcanezumab 120 mg/mL pre-filled pen for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

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Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE



Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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